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ABSTRACT

This booklet is designed to give teachers resource information about the humane treatment of and care for animals. The topics are presented as springboards for discussion and class activity. Topics include the care of dogs, cats, birds, horses, and fish; wildlife and ecological relationships; and careers with animals. Illustrations on some pages are designed for use as a transparency or duplicating master. The appendices list resources and teaching aids as well as the addresses of National Humane Societies and organizations. (MA)

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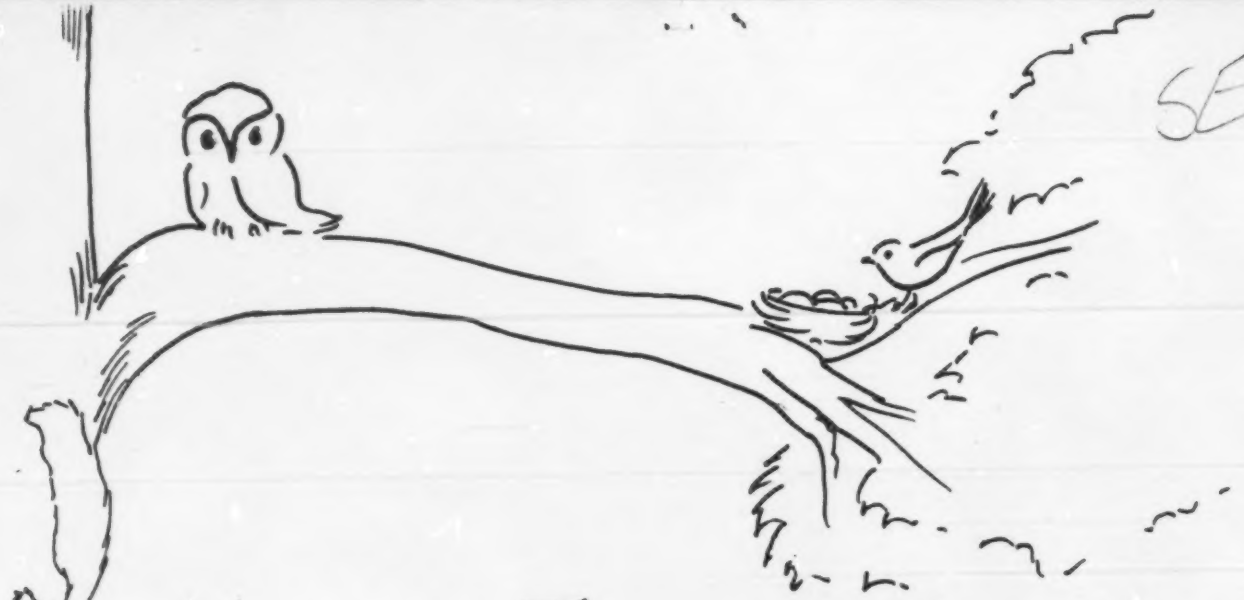

Humane Treatment of Animals

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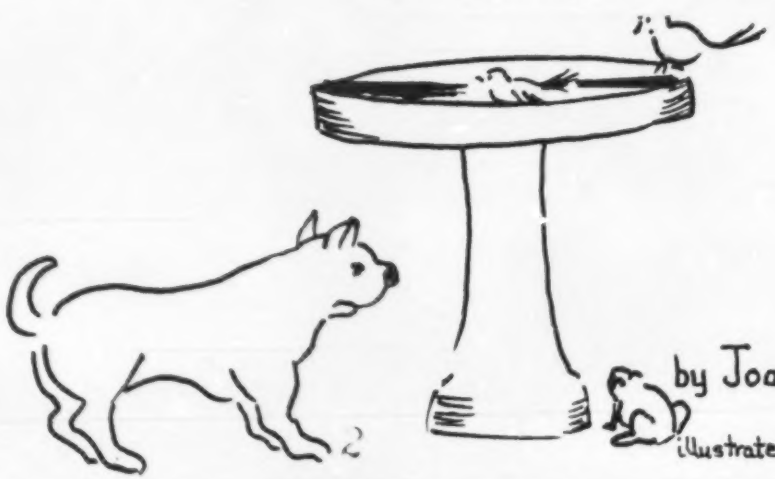

by Joan Smithey Dawson
illustrated by Frank Dawson

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of
ANIMALS

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C O N T E N T S

Introduction to the Teacher	1
Introduction to the Student	2
Dogs	3
Master-Transparency	4
Care of Dogs	5
A Dog Needs These Things	7
Care of Cats	8
A Cat Needs These Things	10
Pets and Car Travel	11
The Humane Society	12
Overpopulation of Dogs and Cats - Part I	13
Overpopulation of Dogs and Cats - Part II	14
Litter and Animals	15
Care of a Pet Bird	16
A Bird Needs These Things	17
Horses	18
A Horse Needs These Things	19
Fish	20
Small Caged Pets	21
Henry Bergh - Humane Hero	22
Albert Schweitzer - Humane Hero	24
Fall - Preparation for Winter	25
Feeding the Birds	26
Bird Feeders	27
Christmas for the Animals	28
A Christmas Tree for the Animals	29
Springtime	30
Planting for Wildlife	31
Helpful Insects	32
Spiders	33
Bluejays	34
Squirrels	35
Birds of Prey	36
A Food Chain	37
Toads and Frogs	38
Snakes	39
Lizards	40
Turtles	41
Wild Animals Should Be Free	42
Master-Transparency	43
The Steel Jaw (Leghold) Trap	44
Veterinarians - Animal Friends	45
Careers with Animals	46
Zoos	47
Zoo Report Card	48
Exotic Pets	49
Organized Cruelty to Animals	50
Summary	51
Appendix I - Resources and Teaching Aids	52
Appendix II- Addresses	54

INTRODUCTION TO THE TEACHER

If you were asked to name some great people whose kindness is legendary you would find yourself choosing those people who love all living things. Albert Schweitzer's "reverence for life" and St.Francis of Assisi and his "brothers and sisters", the animals, are but two such people. Our students need constant examples of kindness and humane ideals.

You are familiar with Section 10-40-4 in the Code of Alabama which states in part:

> "There shall be taught in the public schools of this state, in addition to other branches of study as now prescribed, a system of humane treatment of animals. It shall be the duty of the principal teacher of every public school within this state to see that there is devoted at least 20 minutes each week through the entire term to teaching the pupils of his or her school kindness, justice and humane protection of birds and animals and the important place they occupy in the economy of nature. ..."

The purpose of this booklet is to provide information and ideas for discussion with your students. They have much knowledge and many experiences of their own to share. As they relate some of their observations, it will become clear to you why we need to spend time learning about humane treatment of animals and the place of animals in the world.

Cruelty to and killing of animals desensitizes people and causes lack of respect for all life. A respect for life and a belief in the right to live can only uplift us and make us more sensitive and humane.

These few minutes a week will become important and satisfying to you and your students. When we care enough to help other forms of life, our own humanity is enhanced. The more we learn about the place of all living creatures in the natural world, the better we are able to learn about our own place. However, we are not teaching humane treatment of animals for our own sake, but for the sake of the animals.

The following topics serve only as springboards for discussion and class activity. This material is presented in the manner in which you would talk to your students, although you may need to modify the language according to the age of your students. Some teachers and classes may develop an interest in a particular topic and develop a unit from it.

Let this be a joyful thing -- we will never <u>make</u> children humane; that feeling must come from inside each child. We as teachers can help our students develop and form a basis for their relationships with animals and the natural world.

"We need a boundless ethic which
will include the animals also."

Albert Schweitzer

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDENT

Have you ever wondered about a line of ants as they touch each other with their antennae, or wondered how bees go from flower to hive without getting lost, or wondered how a mother and father bird find food for babies and return to their nest? Have you seen a mother dog or cat with her babies as she washes them or as she warns them that she has had enough of their rough playing? Have you ever noticed how some birds set up a watch or guard to warn other birds of danger? Do these animals talk to each other? Do your pets talk to you? They do not speak in human language, but animals can communicate with each other and sometimes with you!

If animals can communicate, do you think that they have feelings, fear, pleasures? Have you ever seen a trapped animal, a hungry animal, or an animal that has been beaten, starved, or cruelly treated? Do you know what cruelty is? Animals feel pain, fear, and anxiety just as humans do. They bleed and break and die, too. Humans cause most of the cruelty to animals, and humans can stop most of the cruelty. Do you know what the word humane means? Are you humane?

We will be discussing humane treatment of living things this year. Many people are not humane, that is, kind to animals. Each year, millions of people kill or injure free animals in our woods and forests. Rodeos and roadside exhibits are anything but kind. Is a steel leg-hold trap kind? Many dogs and cats are sold to experimental laboratories that do not use humane methods. Many animals are poisoned. Can you imagine the slow and painful death from poisoning?

Many people are not kind to animals because the people themselves are ignorant. Some people are afraid that they will be ridiculed if they care deeply about the life of an animal. Other people think that they can treat animals any way they wish, because they believe that human beings own and control all other forms of life.

Are you kind to animals? Do you respect the free spirit of wildlife or do you try to kill or cage or put free living animals in jars? Can you respect even the smallest forms of life, such as an ant or a spider? Do you respect an animal's will to live?

How do you treat living things? Think about that during this year as you have discussions with your teacher and classmates. As your understanding of life grows, your kindness and respect for all life will grow, too. Your motto may eventually be that of John Ruskin, who said:

> "I will not kill or hurt any living creature needlessly, nor destroy any beautiful thing, but will strive to save and comfort all gentle life, and guard and protect all natural beauty upon the earth."

One of the most loyal, devoted, and unselfish comrades a person has is a dog. No one knows when dogs first became companions of man, but since that association, dogs have chosen to remain by the side of their masters.

There are many amazing stories of the bravery, loyalty, and sacrifice of dogs for their masters. Scenes are bought to mind of a faithful dog's constant watch over the children of a household, or of the perking up of ears as he hears his master's approach. The most tender scene is that of the seeing eye dog's devotion and attention to his master's needs.

Dogs have been given awards for bravery. They have alerted families to the presence of fire long before it could be detected by ordinary methods. They have pulled people out of burning houses and cars. They have jumped into swollen rivers and icy ponds to save drowning humans. Dogs have summoned help for ailing masters.

For all this, a dog asks very little. He wants most of all love and companionship. It does not matter whether the owner is rich or poor, attractive, well dressed, or well educated; a dog accepts a person as he is. He will accompany his master on errands and patiently wait until time to return home, or he will meet his master at the same place at the same time every day. Lost dogs have been known to travel many miles to their homes. The most poignant stories of all concern dogs who stand watch at the graves of departed masters.

Dogs have long been partners with men on farms and ranches. They have looked after livestock and helped round them up. They have worked as performers in circuses and shows.

Every dog has nobility in him. The saddest sights of all are the homeless, starving dogs seen on the roadsides and in alleys. It is pathetic to see once carefree, energetic, trusting dogs reduced to a state of bewilderment, fear, distrust, and absolute desolation. These dogs never know the touch of a kind hand or the sound of a welcome voice.

An owner that loves his dog provides him with the best of care - food, water, shelter, and love. He does not begrudge a trip to the vet when it is needed. He protects his loyal pet with innoculations. When a dog is truly loved, it does not have to stay out in the wind, rain, freezing temperatures, nor the mid-day heat without shelter. The animal is kept within a fence so that it can run freely in its own yard rather than throughout the neighborhood. An owner that considers his dog's feelings would never leave the dog chained. An owner wants to be near his dog just as it wants to be near its master. Communication and companionship are important to both.

There is no better friend than a dog. He and his master can run, play, or sit and relax together. A smile, a word, or a pat on the head sends a feeling of joy through a dog. He communicates this feeling by a wag of his tail or a friendly lick on the hand. He depends on his master for his well being and happiness, and he repays many times over with true affection.

TEACHER: James Herriot's books contain many dog stories suitable for reading to your class. See page 52.

The following page can be used as a transparency or as a duplicating master.

CARE OF DOGS

Do you have a dog? What kind? When you asked for a dog, did your parents reply, "Who is going to take care of it?" That is a good question, for every pet needs food, water, shelter, and LOVE.

If you do not already have a dog, the first place you should look is at the local humane shelter. You will find a dog there that definitely needs a family. Before you get any animal, however, you should make a commitment to care for it, love it, and treat it with kindness.

In choosing a dog, look for a smooth and glossy coat. Eyes and nose should be clear and not runny. Gums should be firm and pink, and teeth should be white. Discolored teeth in a puppy could mean a previous disease. Ears should be clean. Legs should be straight. Check the dog for deafness. If possible, arrange to let a veterinarian check the dog before you agree to keep it. Acquiring a sick dog could just bring you added expense and eventual heartbreak.

Puppies should not leave their mother until they are six weeks old. If you get a puppy, be gentle with it and be sure it has time for plenty of rest between exercise periods. It will need a box with clean bedding. To keep it from crying at night, wrap a hot water bottle in a towel and put it in the bed with the dog. Add a ticking clock, and your puppy will be reminded of the warmth and sounds of his mother and littermates. Do not put the dog's bed too near the heater, because that will cause dryness of skin.

Puppies should be fed three or four times a day until they are three months old. Then feed twice a day. An adult dog can be fed once a day. Do not feed your dog bones. They can splinter and puncture the throat or intestines. Before you know what has happened, it may be too late to save your dog.

There are many methods of housebreaking a puppy; each method requires that you be able to act fast. If the puppy has already made a mistake on the floor, wipe it up with an old rag or towel. Then take the rag outside to the place that you want your puppy to use. Take the puppy to this same spot the first thing in the morning, the last thing at night, after each nap, before and after play, and after eating. The puppy will associate the smell on the rag with what he is supposed to do. When he uses the spot you have provided for him, praise and pat him. If he makes a mistake in the house, don't hit him. Show him what he has done, scold him, then take him to "his" spot outside. Remember, he wants very much to please you. Soon, if you are diligent, your dog will be housebroken. How proud you will be when your dog finally "asks" to go outside. Be sure to reward him when he learns to do this.

When training a dog, never hit it. Train for short periods of time, and always reward the dog when it learns a trick or command. Reprimand your dog immediately after he does something wrong. If you wait too long, the dog will only become confused. Be consistant. If you scold your dog for doing something, then let him get away with it the next time, that will also confuse him.

(con't.)

Dogs should be groomed regularly. That means brushing and checking for fleas and ticks. Examine the dog after it has been roaming in the woods; it may have burs and stickers in its coat. Dogs occasionally need a bath. Be sure to keep water and soap out of its eyes and ears.

A dog must have plenty of exercise, especially if it must stay inside or if it is tied up outside. If the dog has to be temporarily tied or chained, be certain there is fresh water, shade, and shelter. If possible, fence the yard so that your dog can move freely. An animal should not have to spend its entire life tied or chained.

Your dog will need several innoculations if it is to enjoy a healthy life. There are deadly diseases that could stike your dog. They are: distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, and rabies. Characteristics of most illnesses are: fever, loss of appetite, running eyes and nose, coughing, diarrhea, vomiting, and listlessness. Be familiar with your dog's habits; if it begins to act strangely, it is probably sick. Take it to the vet. Don't hesitate to take it when it is hurt or sick; your pet cannot heal itself and could suffer terribly. Vaccinations prevent later disease, death, and heartbreak.

Dogs are subject to such parasites as: heartworms, hookworms, tapeworms, whipworms, roundworms, ticks, and fleas. The vet must treat for worms; you will be able to treat your dog for fleas and ticks.

A vet can also advise you about spaying or neutering your dog. It should not have to spend its lifetime having litters of puppies. You cannot possibly find a home for all that your dog produces, and most of the puppies will be doomed to an early death.

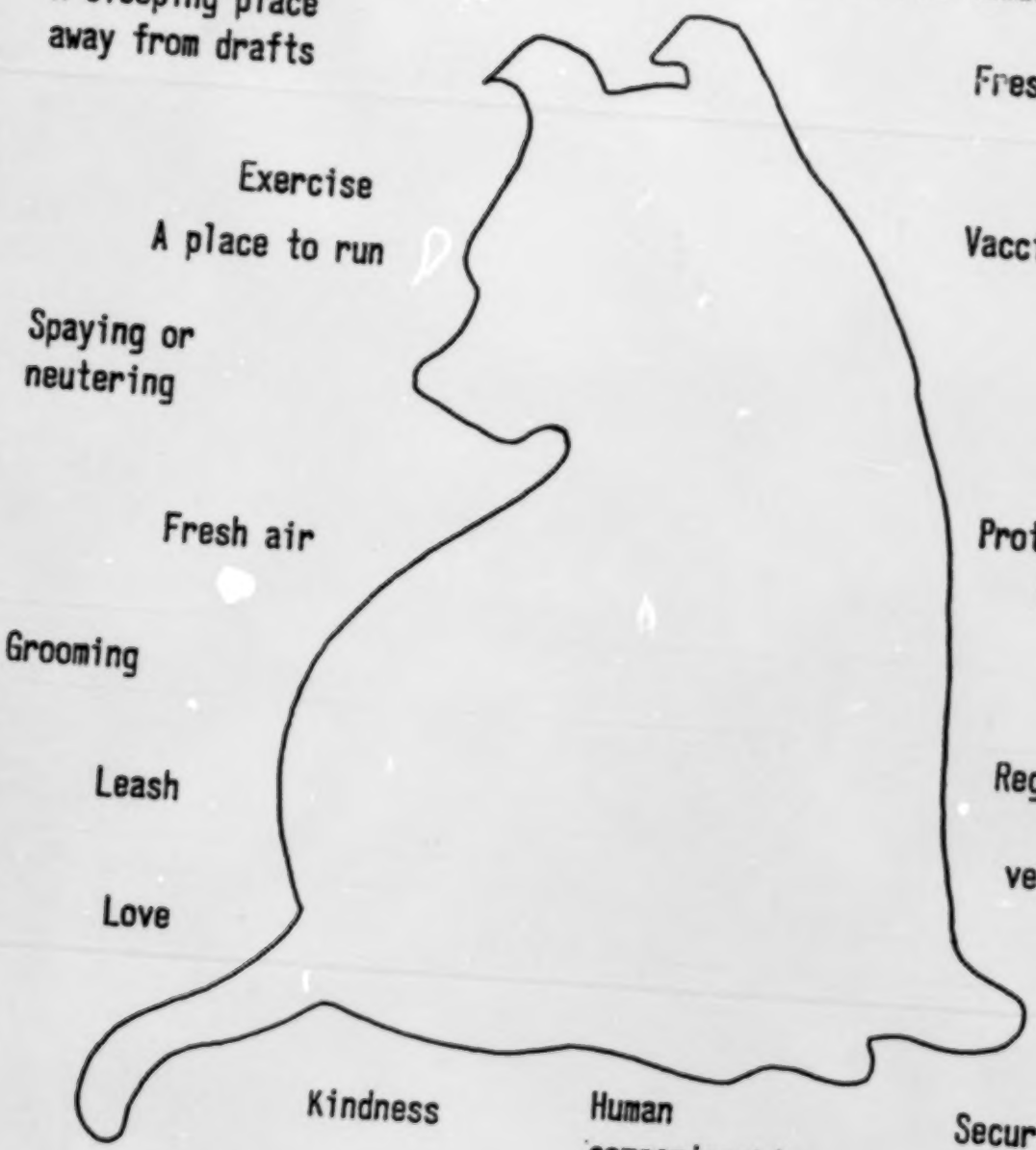
Dogs should have manners! They should not chase cars, bicycles, or people. A dog that roams and barks is troublesome for neighbors and for its owner. Dogs should not be allowed to jump upon everyone they meet. Many people do not allow dogs on beds and other furniture. Decide what rules your dog must follow, then begin to teach him. Remember, no hitting! Teach him with firmness, kindness, and patience.

Read a pet care book to learn how to live with your dog and make its life happy. Your vet may have a free booklet to give to you. As you learn more about the dog, you will be better able to care for it. Your dog will be the most faithful, loving friend you will ever have. He will ask for nothing but care and love from you.

TEACHER: There are many delightful stories about pets in the three books of James Herriot. They are listed on page 52. Addresses of pet food distributors and pet care products will be found on page 54.

The following two pages are suitable for making transparencies or duplicating masters for children in primary grades.

A DOG NEEDS THESE THINGS



CARE OF CATS

Have you ever had a cat for a pet and friend? Do you have one now? Cats have been kept by humans for thousands of years. They are very independent animals, but if you give them love and security, you will be repaid with their trust and affection.

If you do not have a cat, perhaps you would like to adopt one from the local animal shelter. There are always plenty of cats there that need a home and a loving family. Before you decide to get a cat, ask yourself these questions. Will you continue to love your cat -- will you be able to feed it and see that it gets shots and medical treatment? Will you be able to see that it doesn't product litters and litters of unwanted kittens?

If you do get a cat, let it first explore its new home. It should not be allowed to go outside until you are certain that it has accepted its home and will stay with you. Provide a place for it to sleep that is away from drafts and off the floor. Your cat or kitten should have its own food and water dish. If it is to be kept inside, it must have a litter box.

A cat is easy to housebreak. Make a litterbox with a plastic or enamel pan covered with sand or shredded newspaper or cat litter. After your kitten wakes from a nap or finishes eating, take it to the litter box and show it how to scratch with its front paws. It will get the idea. Clean the litter box daily or your entire house will have an odor.

Cats must have several vaccinations against disease. They are prone to several deadly diseases. The most common is feline enteritis, which can cause death within one or two days. Symptoms are high temperature, vomiting, diarrhea, and lack of appetite. Get the cat to a vet quickly. Pneumonitis is another disease that needs treatment. It is characterized by sneezing, coughing, discharge from the eyes and nose, and poor appetite. Your cat is also subject to rabies, so be sure to have it innoculated each year.

Other bothersome things that need attention are ear mites. They cause a cat to shake its head and scratch its ears. Cats can also get worms. Both problems should be treated by a veterinarian. If you cat has fleas, always use a flea powder that is especially made for cats, as they lick themselves and could be poisoned.

Learn how to handle a cat and never let anyone pull at its tail, ears, or legs. Put one hand under its chest, then put the other hand under its hindquarters. Never carry a kitten by the nape of its neck, and don't squeeze it around the stomach.

Cats are meat eaters. Table scraps and milk do not provide proper nutrition for them. There are many prepared foods on the market today, so you should not have any trouble providing a balanced meal. Chicken skins or bones should never be given to a cat. A kitten needs three or four meals a day until it is about ten weeks old. Then you can feed your cat twice a day.

Brush your cat to prevent hair balls in its stomach. Don't bathe a cat unless you absolutely have to, and never bathe a kitten under six months of age. Cats are very clean; notice their special tongue.

(con't.)

Every cat enjoys extending its claws and sharpening them - sometimes on your rug or furniture! Make a scratching post from a log or from a piece of wood covered with canvas. Never declaw your cat; you will leave it open to attack without any way of defense.

If you have a litter of kittens at home, don't let them have any visitors for about three days. Never take newborn kittens into the sunlight until they are about five or six weeks old. They can be taken away from their mother by the time they are eight to ten weeks old. If you cannot find a home for all of them, take them to the Humane Society for adoption.

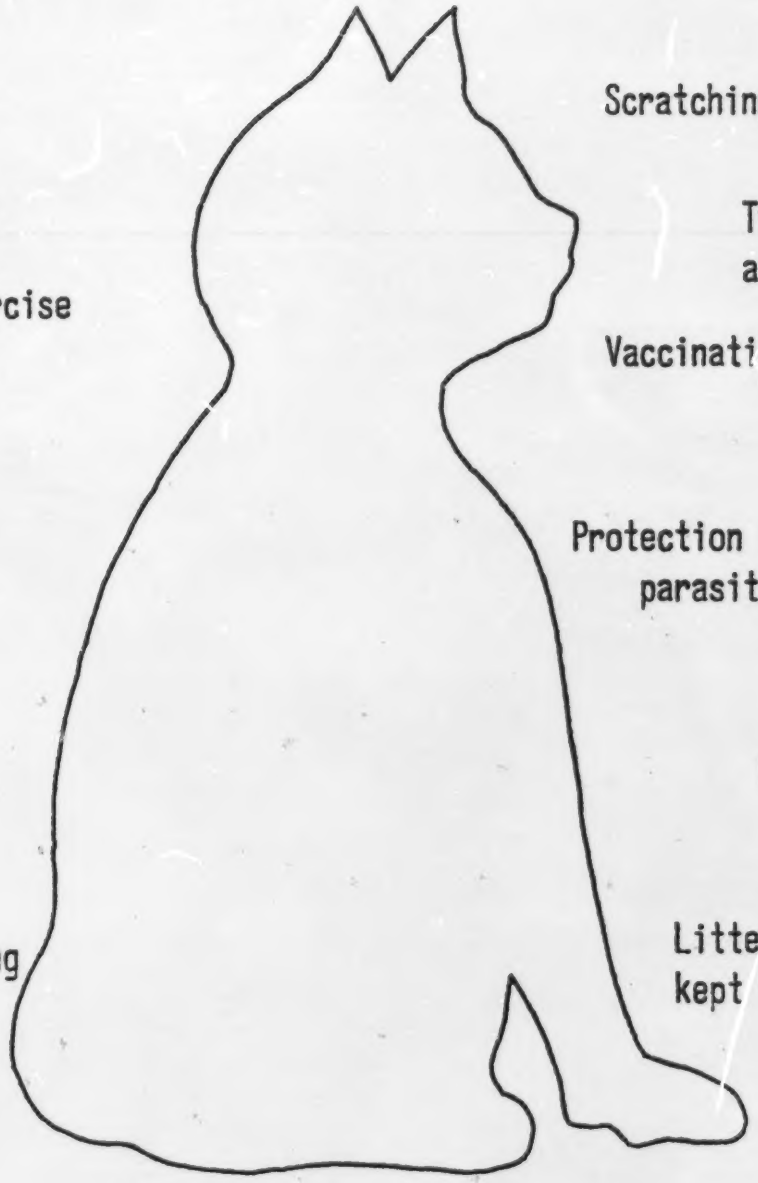
It is very important to have your cat altered so that it will not produce dozens of kittens. This is the kindest thing you can do for your cat. If you have a female, have her spayed after she is six months of age. She will be more contented, loving, less nervous, and she will probably have a longer life. A male cat should be neutered so that he will not roam and produce dozens of kittens. Neutering will make him more loving, and he will not have an uncontrollable desire to roam and fight. He also will not have an offensive odor if you have him neutered when he is young.

Never hit a cat or hurt it in any way. Use a firm voice when you give a command. Remember that cats are very independent, but they will love and trust someone that they respect.

TEACHER: The following page is suitable for making a transparency or a duplicating master.

Pet care booklets are available at the vet's office or from the companies listed on page 54.

A CAT NEEDS THESE THINGS



A sleeping place away from drafts

Scratching post

Two meals a day

Exercise

Vaccinations

Spaying or Neutering

Protection from parasites

Company of another cat

Fresh water

Fresh air

Litter box if kept inside

Regular grooming

Love

Kindness Security

PETS AND CAR TRAVEL

Has your pet ever ridden in a car? Sometimes you find it necessary to transport your pet, and if he has never been in a car before, even a short trip can be quite a hair-raising experience! Before you take your pet anywhere, let him explore the inside of the parked car. Then drive for a block or so to see if he can remain calm and behave in a moving car. Practice driving longer distances to see if your pet gets restless or if he gets motion sickness. If motion sickness is a problem, your vet can give your pet some medication.

Even if you are going on a short trip, your pet should be made to lie or sit down. Do not let it jump from the back seat to the front. This could distract the driver and cause an accident. Pets should not lie on the floor under the driver's feet.

If you plan to take your pet on vacation with you, check first to see if the motel will accept animals. When traveling long distances, take your pet's regular food bowl, water bowl, and blanket. He will feel more "at home" with these familiar things. Be sure that your pet is wearing a license and identification tag. Take a leash and put it on your pet every time he leaves the car.

Your pet (especially a dog) may want to hang his head out the window while you are riding. Don't allow this, because he could get grit imbedded in his eyes. The wind can cause an eye inflammation.

A car can be a death chamber for your pet under certain circumstances. If you need to leave the car - even for a few minutes - do not leave your pet alone in a parked car! Even in cool weather, the sun can heat a car to such a temperature that your pet could quickly die. If you sit in a parked car (even with the windows partially open) in the sunshine, you will understand how this could cause heat stroke and death. You pet should never have to ride in the trunk of the car. Carbon monoxide gas can seep into the trunk and cause death.

If you plan carefully and consider the needs of your pet while you are traveling, the trip could be enjoyable for all. And remember, if your pet just doesn't like to travel, you can always board him with your veterinarian!

THE HUMANE SOCIETY

Does your community have a Humane Society or an animal shelter nearby? Have you visited it? Have you ever taken an animal there? Have you ever adopted a dog or a cat from the shelter?

What is the purpose of a Humane Society, and why is it important to have one in your community? The Humane Society takes in all kinds of stray domestic animals. The workers at the shelter keep some of the healthy animals for people to adopt. The Humane Society also tries to prevent cruelty to animals. Sometimes the director of the animal shelter will investigate a cruelty report and will take the animal away from the person that is mistreating it.

Humane Societies all over the United States take in millions of dogs and cats each year. What happens to the injured, sick, and old animals that no one will adopt? They cannot be fed and kept in cages forever, because every day more and more animals arrive at the animal shelter. Therefore the workers have to put some of the animals to death.

Whose fault is it that these animals have to be destroyed? It is not the fault of the Humane Society. It is the fault of owners that allow their animals to run loose, or people that dump animals on country roadsides, or people that let their pets have litters and litters of babies every year. Are you one of these people? We will talk more about animal population later. Overpopulation of dogs and cats is one of the Humane Society's main problems.

If you have not been to the Humane Society, visit it. If you need a pet, adopt one there. You will be saving an animal's life, and you will probably get a good, loving pet. Find out what you and your family can do to make the Humane Society's work easier. You may even be able to be a volunteer worker at the shelter when you are a teenager!

TEACHER: The Humane Society of the United States has films, pamphlets, and posters for your use. Use the personnel at the shelter as resource speakers for humane education or career education.

The Humane Society publishes a magazine for children. The magazine is called KIND. See page 2 for the address and price. Use the same address to request an excellent list of all Humane Society publications concerning animal care. Most of the pamphlets cost 5¢ or 10¢.

Find out about "Be Kind to Animals Week" and plan a special discussion for that week.

The American Humane Association provides brochures and pamphlets for your use.

OVERPOPULATION OF DOGS AND CATS - PART I - THE PROBLEM

When you take on a pet, its welfare and happiness are your responsibility. You know that this means providing food, water, shelter, exercise, and love for your pet. However, being a pet owner means more than that. Responsible pet owners never let pets run loose and roam around the neighborhood. There are many dangers awaiting a roaming pet -- attack from other animals, danger from cars, exposure to disease and parasites, and cruel treatment from people. If you have a female pet that is allowed to roam, she may present you with a litter more times than your parents wish.

Nearly everyone loves little puppies or kittens. They are so cute, cuddly, and playful that they are hard to resist. When you find that your pet is going to have babies, you are usually very excited. But wait a minute --- what kind of life (or death) awaits the thousands of kittens and puppies that are being born each hour in our country?

What happens to these cute little kittens and puppies that are born to your pet? First of all, you will have to find a home for them. That's not as easy as it sounds, especially when your pet has several litters a year. What happens to the kittens or puppies that you place in a good home? Have you checked on them a few years later? Are they still alive and well cared for? Have they had many babies of their own? If your cat has six kittens every three or four months, and her kittens do the same ----- what is going to happen in a few years? Be assured that most of these kittens will <u>not</u> ever know love, safety, food, and shelter. If a dog has puppies every six months, will all her puppies and their puppies find a good home? The answer is, "No, absolutely not!" What happens to many of these unwanted animals?

Many people just get tired of their pets. They find that they can't afford a pet, or they don't have the time or desire to care for it. Often, the owner will take an animal out in the country and "dump" it. These people pretend that they think the animal will be able to care for itself and will find someone that will give it a home. Do you know what happens to nearly every one of these abandoned pets? They are subject to slow starvation, parasites, disease, exposure to the heat and cold, and danger from cars and trucks. Abandoning a pet is very cruel, because it sentences an animal to a slow and frightening death. The pet cannot understand why it was left alone. It spends the rest of its tortured and frightened life in bewilderment.

Perhaps you already have a litter of puppies or kittens and you cannot find a home for all of them. What should you do? Take them to the Humane Society, and it is possible that homes will be found for them. However, eighty percent of them will have to be put to death. Even at that, it will be quicker than starvation. It is a sad business. Do you know that sometimes the dogs and cats cuddle up against the shelter workers and lick their hands even as they are carrying them to the place where they will be put to death?

Humane Shelters of our country have to systematically kill three and one-half million dogs and cats each year, because they cannot find a home for them. These are not all mangy, emaciated, old animals. Most of the animals that are put to death are healthy, intelligent dogs and cats. What a waste of life! What can be done?

TEACHER: Pet overpopulation is a serious problem. Much information (free or inexpensive) is available from the Humane Society. See page 54.

OVERPOPULATION OF DOGS AND CATS - PART II - A SOLUTION

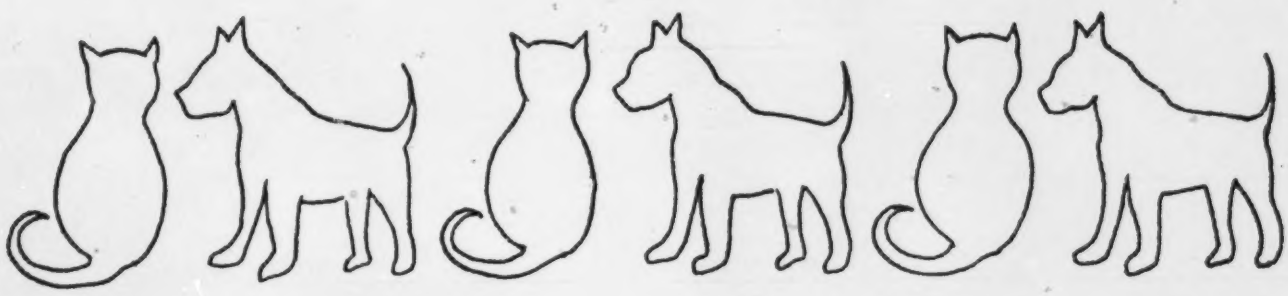
You are now aware of some of causes of dog and cat overpopulation. Pets that are allowed to roam, pets that produce litters and litters of babies, and abandoned pets have no choice but to contribute to the problem. You might not ever think of abandoning your pet, but if you let it roam the neighborhood, or if you let it have littlers of babies, you are contributing to an already serious problem.

How can you prevent your pet from continuing to have babies? The best way is to have your female pet spayed. This is a simple operation. Your female pet will have to stay in the vet's office for a few days until her stitches heal; but when she returns to you, she will be more contented, less nervous, and will probably have a much longer life. She will not present you with babies year after year.

A male animal can be neutered. This, also, is a simple operation. After his operation, he will be more affectionate, and he will not have a strong urge to roam and fight. This will certainly help him to live longer! He will no longer contribute to the overpopulation problem.

Can you see now why you should not let your dog or cat reproduce? There are already millions of animals that will never have a home. Should you be responsible for bringing more animals into an already overcrowded pet situation? Make up your mind that you and your family will never be responsible for the death of another animal. Have your pets spayed or neutered. If you want another pet, get it from the Humane Society shelter - you will most certainly be saving its life!

Overpopulation is not the fault of your pet. It is caused by human neglect. Human kindness and responsibility can stop overpopulation and certain death for thousands of kittens and puppies.



TEACHER: There are many excellent brochures and posters available from the local Humane Society or from national organizations. Write for a free catalogue. See page 54 for addresses.

A field trip to the local humane shelter is in order is you have not already been. In leiu of a field trip, the shelter can possibly send you films and resource speakers.

LITTER AND ANIMALS

Have you noticed signs on the roadside and messages on TV about the ugliness of litter along our highways? Litter costs the taxpayers millions of dollars a year. Did you know that litter can hurt animals, too?

What is litter? Litter is all the things that you see thrown out of cars, trucks, and buses - the things that end up along the side of our roads. There are food wrappers, plastic and paper cups, all sorts of cans, bottles, and other forms of trash.

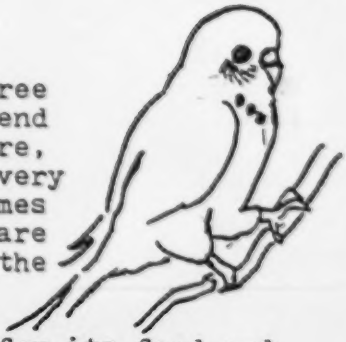
How can these things harm animals? Many times, food is left clinging to the food wrappers. Water collects inside the cans and bottles. Wild and stray animals come to these things to get a bite of food or a drink of water. Sometimes cats, skunks, opossums, and other small animals stick their heads into empty jars and cans, looking for the food that they smell. If the animal cannot get its head out of the can or jar, it then dies and slow and tragic death.

Don't throw food out of the window of your car thinking that you will help feed a starving animal. You will just attract it to the roadside where it will probably be killed by a passing car or truck.

Some small animals even lay their eggs in bottles; when the babies hatch, they are too big to crawl out of the bottle, and they slowly starve and die.

Do your part to protect our roadside from litter -- in doing so, you will also help keep animals away from what could be sure death.

CARE OF A PET BIRD



Most birds with which humans come into contact are free living creatures of the outdoors. These birds can not spend life in a cage, and they should never be caught. There are, however, some birds that do live with people. They make very cheery companions. They sing, chirp, whistle, and sometimes they even talk! The most common of these feathered pets are parakeets, canaries, and finches. More exotic birds are the parrots, mynah birds, and cockatoos.

Any caged animal is entirely dependent on its owner for its food and clean living conditions. Its life is literally in the owner's hands. Since a pet bird spends most of its life in a cage, care should be taken to make its dwelling clean and comfortable. The size of the bird will determine the cage size. There should be enough room for exercise and for brief flight. It would be very cruel to place a bird in a cage that did not allow room to even stretch its wings.

The bottom of the cage should slide out for easy cleaning. Cleaning must be done often! Food and water containers, perches, and ornaments inside the cage must also be cleaned. The bird needs several perches. One perch should be placed higher than all the others to provide a "lookout post". Food and water containers are especially made to slide in between the bars and are preferable to dishes placed in the cage. Gravel should be sprinkled on the bottom of the cage.

Most pet birds are seed eaters, but they sometimes enjoy a bit of spinach or raw carrot. Dandelion leaves (washed) are relished by some birds. The pet dealer can give advice on the best type food for each bird. All seed eaters need grit or gravel along with their food. This is necessary for digestion.

All birds need some sunlight, some shade, and complete protection from drafts. If the bird were in its natural habitat, it might take a bath now and then. In captivity, it will sometimes bathe in a shallow dish of water. It is best to let it bathe just before the cage is cleaned -- bathtime is pretty messy! If the bird does not enjoy a bath, it can be sprayed lightly with a plant mister.

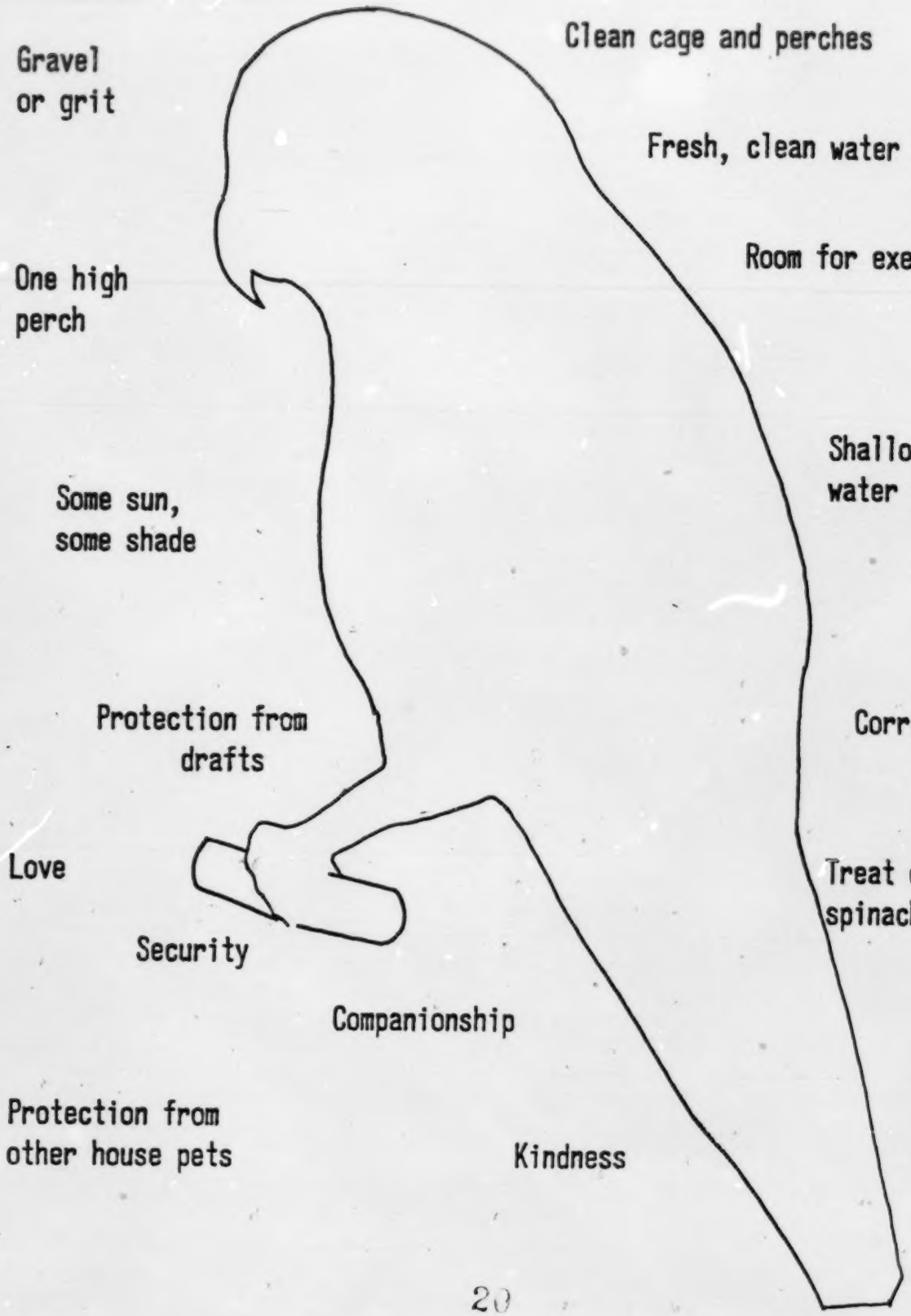
Since a bird is made to fly, it is almost certain that eventually it will escape its cage and flutter around the room. It should not be chased, because it might get frightened and injure itself. If left alone, it may later return to the open door of its cage. Dogs and cats should be kept out of the way while the bird is loose.

When a pet bird is first purchased and brought home, it should be allowed to become accustomed to its new surroundings before it is approached by humans. Later, the bird will recognize the friendly voice of its owner and will enjoy companionship. It will finally trust its owner enough to perch on his finger.

Birds are interesting to listen to and to watch. Their beaks and little feet are always busy. Many birds can be trained to do simple tricks. They are full of antics of their own, too. Parrots and parakeets will imitate many sounds, and some can learn to "talk". Canaries sing and cheer the heart of their owner. When a little pet bird is well cared for, it will provide many years of companionship and fun for its human friend.

TEACHER: See page 54 for Humane Society brochure catalog.
Rita Vandivert's Favorite Pets, page 53.

A BIRD NEEDS THESE THINGS



HORSES

Owning a horse was once a necessary part of farm and ranch life -- a horse worked and provided transportation. Now most horses in our country are kept for recreation and pleasure. Almost every child has dreamed of having a horse, and for some that dream has come true.

Owning a horse is a much more complicated, demanding activity than is owning another type of pet; but if you are willing to take the responsibility and bear the expense, a horse can give you the joy and pride that only horse owners know. Getting ready for a horse can be fairly expensive, since you must pay for the shelter, food, tack (gear), and veterinary expenses. You must be willing to spend time with the horse every day. He will need daily grooming, exercise, food, fresh water, and clean living quarters.

Part of the fun of having a horse is the anticipation of getting him and preparing for him. Before you bring a horse home, you must provide shelter in the form of a barn or shed. The floor of the stall should be covered with clean straw. This shelter must protect the horse from wind, wetness, heat, and insects. There should be some grazing land nearby.

Horses need to eat twice a day. There are several rules you should know. Water is given before feeding, not after. Hay is given before oats. A horse can eat all the hay he wants, but the oats should be measured. A block of salt should be provided. A horse should not drink after eating or after exercise or hard work.

When preparing a horse for riding, brush him to rid his coat of burs or particles of grit. Check his feet for pebbles. Be thoughtful: when you put the saddle on, slide it back a little so that the horse's hair will be smooth and not turned backwards. Warm a cold bit in your hands; tighten the saddle girth slowly. Always mount from the left, and mount lightly. Speak softly while you are preparing to mount.

Do not race your horse; and try to keep off smooth pavement so that he will not slip. After you have finished riding, let the horse walk around until he is cool and dry. Then groom him, and check his feet.

Treat your horse with kindness at all times. He is a big animal, and you want and need his trust. You want him to be comfortable and relaxed with you. Loud words and blows will do nothing to win his confidence. Think of what makes him comfortable. Always check the fit of the bit and saddle girth. Be sure that the saddle is not too heavy. Don't let his feet or teeth go too long before they are professionally checked. If your horse's teeth are kept in good shape, his life will be prolonged.

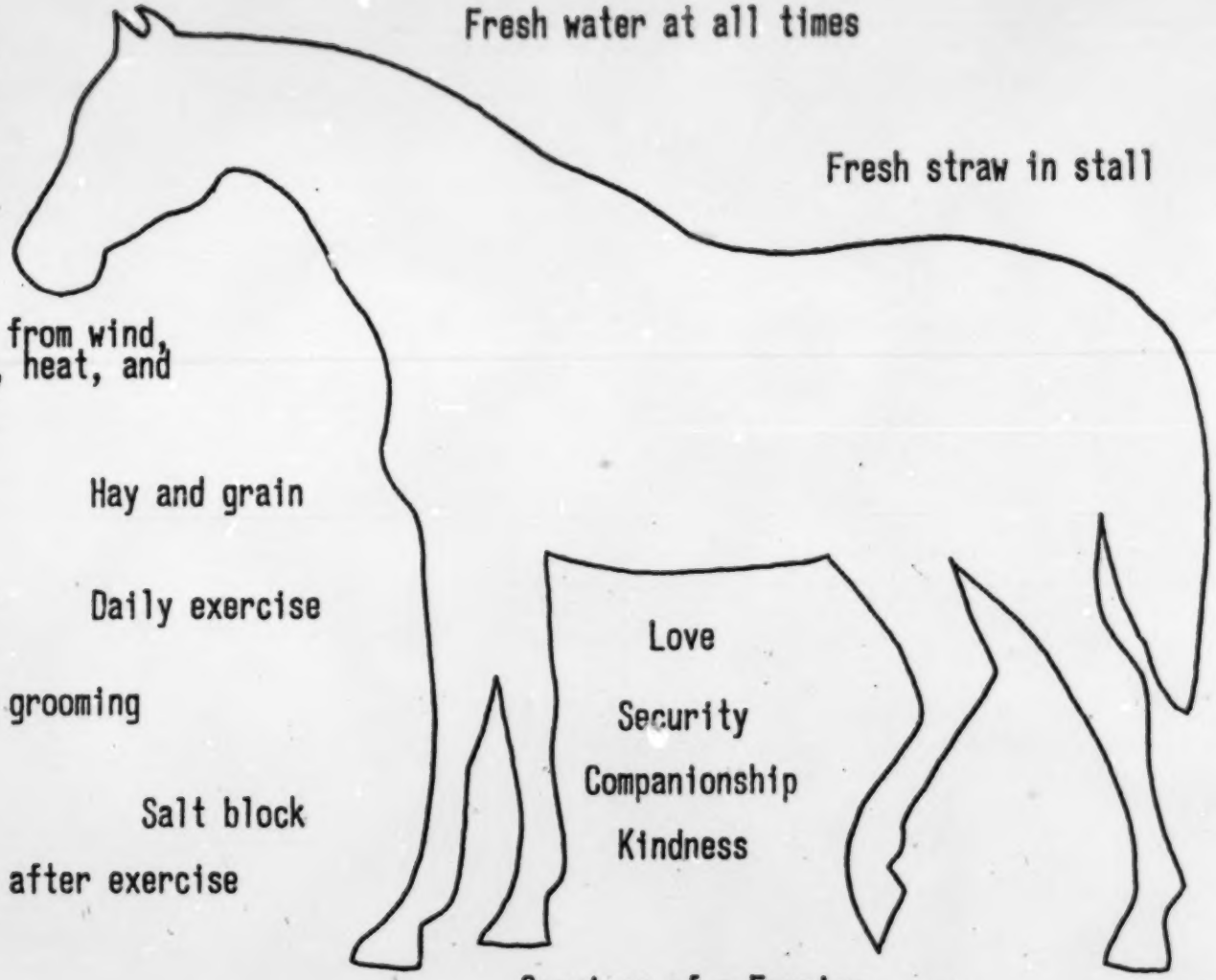
When your dreams come true and you actually have a horse of your own, be a real friend to him. He can make your life exciting, and you will have an experience that others dream about!

TEACHER: Horses are measured by hands. One hand = 4 inches. a horse that is 15:2 would be 62" high. (15 x 4 + 2) Children will enjoy changing hands to inches.

Vocabulary: farrier, tack

See page 52 for Marguerite Henry's Album of Horses.

A HORSE NEEDS THESE THINGS



FISH

Some of the smallest, quietest, yet most active pets you may have are fish. Years ago, the most popular aquarium fish were goldfish and guppies, but now fish of every description can be bought. "Exotic" fish are best left alone, however, until you have success and knowledge through raising more common varieties.

Before getting any fish, you should know about the time and expense involved in caring for them. Their lives depend on your knowledge and care, for you control their total living arrangements.

Set up the aquarium before buying or bringing home any fish. Let the water stand 24 hours so that it will lose harmful gases and chemicals. If you have to add more water, let it also stand for 24 hours. It is wise to keep a gallon jar filled at all times so that you will always have a supply of "aged" water.

If you plan to have tropical fish, go ahead and put aquarium gravel, plants and filter in place. Provide some hiding places for the fish. Set the aquarium heater between 75 and 80 degrees. Check your tank for leaks. Don't move the aquarium once it has been filled. One gallon of water weighs ten pounds! Don't decorate the tank with pretty rocks from your yard. They might have harmful substances which could slowly poison your fish.

Buy healthy fish -- fish with no spots, torn fins or tails. They should be well shaped and should swim without shimmying. Ask the pet dealer which varieties are compatible and which are aggressive.

When you get the fish home leave them in the container and float them in the aquarium for 15 to 20 minutes. Why should you do this? A sudden temperature change can kill your fish.

Goldfish need more space than most people provide. A one gallon container will hold a small goldfish. A five gallon container will hold two goldfish, and a ten gallon tank will hold several small fish or two large ones. The shape of the container is very important. A bowl with a small top is not satisfactory. Fish need oxygen from the water. The more surface area of water, the more oxygen exchange. If your fish makes bubbles at the surface, it needs more oxygen and space.

When choosing goldfish, choose healthy specimens and "float" them as you do tropicals. They enjoy cooler temperatures - around 65° F.

Feed your fish no more than they can eat in five minutes. Give them a variety of commercially prepared food, but do not overfeed. Overfeeding causes water pollution, decay, disease, and death.

Learn all you can about the care of your fish. You will have a lasting association with finned creatures that will interest you for a lifetime!

TEACHER: Ask students which type aquarium would be best and why. If students do not understand how a fish "breathes" oxygen, a lesson on fish anatomy would be a good follow-up.

SMALL CAGED PETS

Hamsters, guinea pigs, mice, rats, or a pair of gerbils make good pets in your home or classroom. These little animals can give hours of enjoyment. They must be given care so that their lives inside a cage do not become boring or unbearable. They are entirely dependent upon their owner for survival. A person is very large and strong in their eyes, so movements and contact with them must be reassuring and gentle.

All small caged pets require food, water, and clean living quarters. There are many prepared foods available in the pet store, but they enjoy an occasional green vegetable (raw) or a piece of fruit. Water should be supplied in a gravity bottle. If water is placed in a dish, the little animal will just tip it over and the cage will constantly be wet. Disease will follow. Most small animals enjoy a place to hide, so it is good to give them some shelter inside the cage. A small box makes a good "home within a home".

The cage can be lined with shredded paper towels, cedar shavings, or products available at pet stores. Bedding should be changed every one or two weeks -- dirty bedding invites disease and odor. Newspaper or any paper with printing or dye should not be used. Printer's ink rubs off on the fur of the animal, or the small pet may just eat the paper and become ill.

Rodents gnaw on everything. They must chew constantly to keep their teeth worn down, so something to gnaw on must be provided. Many rodents like hard dog biscuits. If a cage is built out of wood or cardboard, the pet will chew its way right out of a home! A glass aquarium with a screen top provides a good home, because it can be washed. It also provides a draft-free home. A glass cage should never be left in direct sunlight.

These pets may enjoy an exercise wheel, ladder, or other things to play with. Gerbils especially like paper towel tubes or a tin can with both ends removed.

Gerbils are social animals and need the company of one another. A mated pair will produce many babies during a lifetime. When they do have babies, they should be left alone for a few days. Handling them could cause the mother to become nervous and to harm her offspring. Young gerbils will pair off after a few months, and pairs should be put in their own "home".

Guinea pigs also love company of their own kind. If only one is kept, it should be given plenty of attention and affection by its owner. Its coat should be regularly brushed to keep it well groomed. If the guinea pig is allowed outdoors, it should be protected from other animals. Hay should be available for it to eat.

There are many things that can be learned about and from a small pet. Before one is acquired, however, an owner must be willing to appropriate the time and expense involved in making its life happy. An owner that is gentle and loving with a small furry friend will be repaid with the little animal's trust.

TEACHER: See page 53 for helpful books by Dorothy Shuttlesworth and by Rita Vandivert.

HENRY BERGH - HUMANE HERO

Can one person do anything to prevent cruelty to animals? A little over one hundred years ago, a man named Henry Bergh gave up his career as a diplomat to do just that.

You cannot imagine how cruelly animals were treated in the 1800's. It was a common sight to see dead horses on the streets and docks of New York. Two horses were used to pull "horsecars" that were jam packed with as many as eighty-five people! The horses were sometimes beaten to death or just driven until they dropped. Horses that pulled barges were driven forty-eight hours without stopping - then left behind to die.

There were organized dogfights, cockfights, deer-burnings, pigeon shoots, bear baitings, torture and beatings of every kind. Chickens were plucked alive. Horses suffered much pain from cruelly fitting bits and checkreins. Not many people even thought that animals had feelings and knew fear and pain.

Then along came Henry Bergh. He was quite a man! Bergh was born on August 29, 1813, in New York. He was a wealthy, well educated diplomat. He was a large, strong, and muscular man who gave up his job in order to help the mistreated animals of New York.

In 1866, Bergh made a speech. One of his most moving lines was, "...the blood red hand of cruelty shall no longer torture dumb animals with impunity." He received support from several well-known and influential men, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was born. That same year Bergh influenced the New York State Legislature to pass an Animal Welfare Act.

For the first time, it was against the law to neglect, torture, or beat an animal. The first person to be apprehended was a butcher. He had tied the feet of live calves and sheep and piled them high on top of his cart to take them to market. Their heads hung over the side of the cart and bumped against the sides of the cart as it clattered along. Bergh was very angry when he saw this; he knocked the heads together of the drivers to show them how the animals felt, and then he arrested them. Another time he went to a fish market and personally arrested a captain and officers of a ship because they had left thirty-nine turtles turned on their backs without food for three weeks! He lost this case, and the newspapers and the public turned against him and ridiculed him. He became discouraged, but he was brave enough to keep going his own way doing what he knew was right.

Times were not easy, for Bergh was supporting the ASPCA with his own money and some help from friends. He had a few volunteer helpers, but he knew that his organization was doomed if he could not gain more support. Nevertheless, Bergh seemed to be in many places at once. No animal's problem was unimportant to him. He once heard a cat mewing as he passed some building construction. He stopped and found that the cat had crawled up in a hollow place over the door and was accidentally walled up. Henry Bergh made the workmen tear off part of the building to rescue the cat. It took four hours, but the cat was saved!

On a stormy winter night Bergh appeared in front of an overloaded horse car. Two pitiful horses were trying to pull it. Bergh commanded the driver to unload the car, but the driver made the mistake of cursing

(con't.)

and trying to fight him. Henry Bergh just picked the driver up and threw him in a snow bank. Bergh continued through that snowy night to remove all horses from their impossible work until finally all horsecars came through with four horses instead of two - Henry Bergh had succeeded!

The newspaper editors realized that Bergh had been right, so they praised him and made people realize that he was a brave man. He began to get favorable publicity and support. Help came then from another direction. Bergh was summoned to a hospital to see a dying French fur trader. The trader had made a fortune from killing animals. When he thought of all the pain and suffering he had caused, he wanted to do something to atone for it; so he left Bergh's ASPCA $150,000!

Henry Bergh spent the rest of his life trying to prevent cruelty to animals. He also helped found the Socity for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Finally, his health began to fail. The twenty-three years that he so tirelessly gave to his life's work weakened him, and he died on March 11, 1888.

Bergh's work goes on, however. Now there are thousands of humane shelters in our country. His work is not finished and will never be as long as one animal is suffering due to human cruelty or neglect. There is plenty for us to do to prevent cruelty to animals. What will you do?

TEACHER: It is important for students to have positive examples of people whose ideals are high and whose convictions are strong. Henry Bergh was a man who lived his convictions. There is a detailed account of his accomplishments in Defenders, February, 1976, pages 15-23.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER - HUMANE HERO

Once in a great while a person is born whose life and beliefs touch people throughout the whole world. Such a person was Albert Schweitzer. He was born on January 14, 1875, in Alsace. Young Albert began to play the piano when he was five years old. As he grew into manhood, he became an organ builder and one of the world's leading organists. People came for miles to hear his concerts. Other people all over the world studied the books he wrote on theology and philosophy. He was an accomplished historian, philosopher, author, teacher, theologian, minister, and musician -- all this by the age of thirty!

Schweitzer could have had a comfortable life as a popular minister and organist, but he renounced all this when he was thirty years old. He believed that his duty was to help others, specifically the black people in Africa. He had heard about a need for a doctor for the African people, and he began at age thirty to study medicine so that he could be that doctor. After eight years of study, he became a medical doctor and was finally able to go to Africa. He gave medical treatment to thousands of people in his hospital compound. He also personally treated sick and injured animals with the same care that he gave to people.

Dr. Schweitzer became world famous as a missionary doctor. Physicians and medical students from many places went to Africa to learn from him. He also became well known for his love and care for everything that lived. His "Reverence for Life" included all things from people to the smallest living things. His interest in animals had begun when he was a child. Once, he and a friend were hunting birds with slingshots. Just as Albert took aim, he heard the church bell ring. At that moment, the thought came to him, "Thou shalt not kill." He jumped up and scared the birds away so that they would not be hurt, and he vowed to never again thoughtlessly harm a living creature. He knew that man held the lives of many creatures in his hands, and that he must be sympathetic to all of them. He believed this when he was just a child.

Dr. Schweitzer believed that every organism had a "will to live". Once as workers were setting posts for his hospital building, Dr. Schweitzer looked in the post holes to see if any ants, toads, or other small creatures were there. He took them out with his own hands. The workers were puzzled and smiled when he did this, but they began to understand his concern. He said that if one sees a bug floating in a puddle of water, he should offer the bug a leaf to crawl to safety. A bee or wasp that flew in his window would be gently caught and released to go about its life. All animals were safe in his compound.

Albert Schweitzer believed in the life force of such small things as microorganisms and insects. He once warned a visitor against brushing an ant away, lest one of the little creature's legs be broken. On one occasion he saw some natives beating a donkey as it tried to pull them uphill in an overloaded wagon. Schweitzer became very angry and made the men climb out of the cart and help the donkey get uphill.

Although Albert Schweitzer died in 1965, he remains one of the most respected and inspiring men in the world. His love for all things that live inspires others to examine their own thoughts and actions toward living things.

We must relize that life is precious - all life. Human beings have the capacity to affect all other life on earth. Do we, like Schweitzer, care enough to be kind to even the smallest and the most insignificant creature?

"Everything that lives has value simply as a living thing, as one manifestation of the mystery that is life."
Schweitzer

FALL - PREPARATION FOR WINTER

When the October sky turns bright blue, when the leaves on the trees and shrubs turn scarlet, golden, and purple, and when there is a briskness in the morning air -- fall is here and winter lies ahead! People make many preparations to carry them through the winter.

Do you remember the fable of the ant and the grasshopper? When you first heard it, you probably became aware that many animals also make preparations so that they may stay alive during the cold weather. How do animals get ready for the weather that is sure to come?

During the fall, you will see many squirrels, chipmunks, and other rodents busy gathering nuts and seeds to store. Beavers store food in their lodges. Some caterpillars spin cocoons; queen bees and wasps burrow in the ground. Many insects hide in cracks and crevices, and some bugs and beetles stay under the bark of trees. Birds may fly thousands of miles each year that they live to the same warm place. Snakes coil together in rock crevices or under huge rocks or logs. Turtles and frogs burrow under mud in pond or stream bottoms to wait out the freezing weather.

Wintering birds grow thicker plumage. Many mammals begin to grow thicker pelts or undercoats to keep from freezing when they venture out. Toward the end of fall some mammals begin to slow down their activities and seek a place below the frost line to spend the cold months in hibernation. Their body functions are slowed down to a point near death. Body temperature drops, and breathing and heartbeat slow. They live off the fat stored in their bodies. Other animals just sleep deeply, but wake up on mild days and leave their burrow or den to seek food.

Some animals, however, must hunt for food every day of the winter. Deer and birds do not hibernate - many are lost during the cold months. If you remember the winter of 1977, you will know that it was the coldest on record in many areas of the country. Many animals died. Bodies of water froze over and suffocated fish below; millions of birds froze to death, and mammals could not find sufficient food.

Even though the animals prepare themselves for the weather, people sometimes enjoy giving a helping hand. They stock bird feeders and leave grain growing for wild animals. They plant shrubs that will provide winter food and shelter.

Think about the hardships all animals face in winter. Birds should not be killed as they migrate to warmer climates. Little squirrels and chipmunks should not be trapped as they try to find nuts and seeds to store. Don't catch toads, frogs, lizards, and snakes during the fall. There will be no way for you to feed them during the cold weather, and if you release them during winter, they will die.

Winter poses enough problems for animals; try to help and protect them in as many ways as possible.

FEEDING THE BIRDS

Have you always wanted to be able to identify birds? The best way to get to know them is to invite them into your yard. The best invitation is food and cover! All birds do not eat the same kind of food; the more variety you provide, the more birds you will attract. What kinds of food should you provide?

In the winter, raw beef suet can be put in onion bags and hung from trees. Ask the butcher for a small amount of suet. Make a suet stick by mixing melted suet with cornmeal, peanut butter, and seeds. Stuff the mixture into holes that have been bored in a small piece of wood or log. Hang it from a limb.

Large birds are attracted to open feeders filled with cracked corn, chicken scratch, peanuts, fruit, birdseed, and sunflower seed. Some birds will drink red colored honey water hung in special tubes.

Bird feeders can be made out of almost anything: wooden trays filled with seeds and grain, hubcaps or cocoanut shells hung from limbs, trays or pans on the ground. Drill drainage holes in the bottoms of feeders. A screen wire bottom will provide excellent drainage. A window box feeding tray brings birds close for viewing.

Make some hanging feeders for smaller birds, so that large birds will not get all the food. Plant food-bearing trees and shrubs. Provide a constant supply of water and plenty of cover so that the birds feel safe.

Wintering birds often need our help and protection. If you begin feeding birds in the winter, never stop until warm weather arrives. Put out more food than usual in the coldest weather.

Many birds will spend a short time in your yard during migration. When you identify a bird, write its name and the date you saw it. You will find that some birds come to your yard at nearly the same date each year. Find out which birds are here only in the winter and which ones stay year round.

Persuade all of your friends (especially those with BB guns) to let the birds live in peace. If birds disappeared from the earth, insects and insect larvae (caterpillars) would soon strip every tree bare of leaves; the grass would be eaten, and our green world would disappear. Birds are friends of the earth - be a friend to them!

TEACHER: See page 53 for field guide.
It would be interesting to set up a feeding station at your school. The local chapter of the National Audubon Society will provide helpful material.

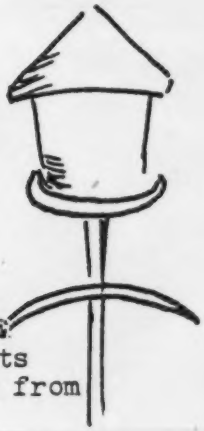
There are excellent ideas for homemade (recycled) bird feeders in the nature magazine Ranger Rick, Dec.,'76.

The following page is suitable for transparencies and duplicating masters.

BIRD FEEDERS

Drill holes in log; fill with suet mixture.

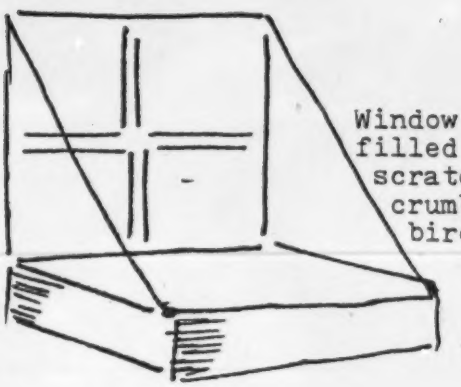
Hubcap feeder filled with crumbs and seeds.



Tilting shield to prevent cats and squirrels from climbing.

Bottle tops nailed to log and filled with suet or peanut butter mixture.

Mesh onion bag filled with raw beef suet.



Window feeder filled with scratch feed, crumbs, and birdseed.

Can you think of other ways to build bird feeders?

CHRISTMAS FOR THE ANIMALS

It's cold outside. You are inside enjoying the Christmas season - giving and receiving presents and eating holiday food. You may even give a present to your dog or cat. Did you know that people in many countries provide extra food and grain for the animals on Christmas Eve? In the Scandinavian countries, there is so much snow on the ground the birds and small animals cannot find food, so the people make sure there is grain to help them during the coldest weather. Some people even put grain and berry laden boughs on the rooftops so that the birds can have a feast. Other families actually prepare a tree for the animals!

Even though it doesn't usually snow here, your family can have a wonderful time preparing a tree for the wildlife around your yard. Your tree could be one that is already growing in the yard, or you could buy an extra Christmas tree to stand outside. Put it in the open, but near enough cover so that the animals will have a feeling of safety.

Decorate your tree with nuts, berries, fruits, doughnuts, lettuce and cabbage leaves, mushrooms, and bags of suet mixture. Mix some melted suet with syrup or honey and add nuts, peanut butter, cornmeal, or crumbs from cake or bread. When the mixture hardens roll it into little balls and tie it in mesh bags such as those onions come in.

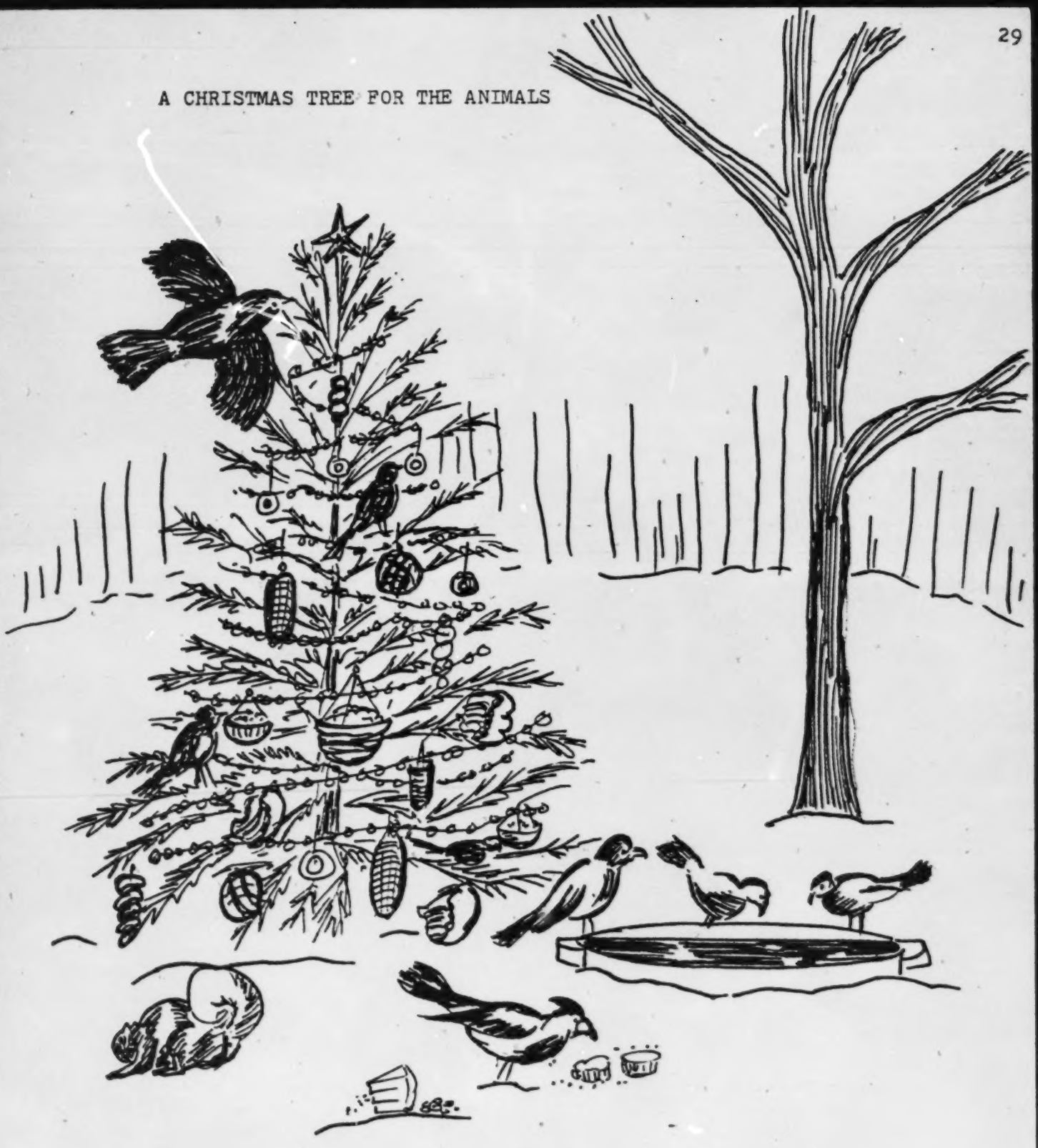
Scatter on the ground or in small pans crumbs, seeds, and grains. Experiment with other types of food, such as cottage cheese or strings of uncooked peas and cheese cubes. Of course, you don't want to forget the strings of popcorn!

Preparing a Christmas tree for the animals may become a custom you will enjoy every year. The animals will enjoy it, too!

TEACHER: Your class will enjoy learning more about the Christmas customs that involve animals.

The following page is suitable for making transparencies or duplicating masters.

A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE ANIMALS



Decorate your tree with nuts, berries, fruits, doughnuts, lettuce and cabbage leaves, mushrooms, and bags of suet mixture. Scatter on the ground or in small pans crumbs, seeds, and grains.

SPRINGTIME

Spring is a time when life seems to return to all living things - plants and animals alike. Buds of trees, shrubs, and plants explode with leaves and flowers that were protected during winter. Insects swarm out of their hiding places. Butterflies and moths emerge from cocoons. Eggs are laid that produce a host of larvae in the water and on plants. Life is everywhere!

Reptiles and amphibians emerge from under rocks or under muddy bottoms of ponds. Groundhogs awake and "predict" the end of winter. Hibernating animals awake and scurry around to begin a new year of buildling homes and raising young. Birds return from winter refuges. They find mates and begin to build nests.

When spring arrives many people take to the woods. After the long, cold winter, they are anxious to get outside. Perhaps you enjoy walking through the woods. As you hike in the springtime, you will see many insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals as they go about their daily tasks.

These free animals are extremely busy during springtime. They have survived a cold winter, and they are hungry and must find food. It is necessary for them to establish territory and attract a mate for the summer. Nest building and den building begin. When eggs are finally laid or babies are born, the task of finding food for all is gigantic! Keeping babies warm and protected from enemies is another responsibility of animal parents.

Should people interfere with the important work of these animals! No! If a bird is shot as it flies back to its babies with food, what happens to the hungry, waiting little ones? If a mother squirrel is trapped or shot as she scurries around for food for her young, what will become of them? Do they wonder about the parent that never returns with food and warmth? Does the remaining parent wonder about the absence of its helpmate? How long do the young suffer before they die of starvation or exposure?

All animals have work to do in the natural world. If they are trapped, killed, or held prisoner in jars and cages, what kind of work can they do? What then is their purpose of being? What happens to their right to live and to be free?

During late spring many animal babies leave the nest, burrow, or den. Their parents may teach them to fly or to hunt. If you see a little bird, baby rabbit, or tiny squirrel, remember that its parents are probably close by. Don't capture baby animals. You cannot possibly give them the care and food that their parent can. If an animal is orphaned and needs care, be sure that you know the proper food and care for it so that you won't cause it to die.

As you go out into the natural world this spring, enjoy the life that you see, but leave it where you found it. If you must capture an animal, capture it on film with a camera! In that way you will have it always, and the animal will still be free.

PLANTING FOR WILDLIFE

Do you want to see some wildlife? Wildlife is all around you, yet you may not be aware of it. Most neighborhood yards do not provide the four things animals must have to survive. These four things are: water, food, cover, and a place to raise young.

How can you invite small animals into your yard? You can do that by planting things that fulfil the four basic needs. Certain types of trees, shrubs, flowers, and herbs attract birds and small mammals. Here is a list of some of the things that provide food for wildlife.

Trees - beech, oak, mulberry, maple, spruce, holly, pine, crabapple, dogwood, cedar, wild cherry

Shrubs- elderberry, blackberry, honeysuckle, hawthorn, sumac, choke cherry

Flowers-aster, daisies, marigold, petunia, sunflower, impatiens, trumpet vine, black-eyed susans

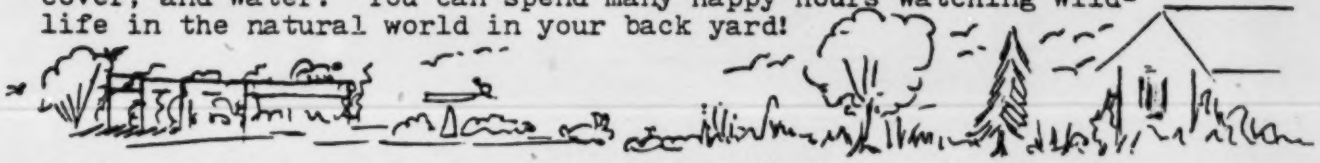
The shrubs you plant should provide cover; don't trim the lower branches. Allow one small part of your yard to grow wild. You will be surprised with the results!

Water must be provided at all times. Perhaps you can use an upside-down garbage can lid for a small pool. Surround it with stones and plants to make it attractive. If your yard is large, use a sunken plastic pool with large rocks and plants around it. Of course, you will want a bird bath. Locate it in the open, but near cover for flight to safety. Animals are attracted to the sound of running or dripping water, so you may want to install a recirculating pump. In the winter you will have to keep water from freezing by using a small aquarium heater.

Animals abound near fencerows. Do you know what a fencerow is? It's just a fence - usually made of wood - covered with vines and vegetation where wild things can live and travel in safety and under cover. It provides a place to live for sparrows, bobwhites, other birds, rabbits, lizards, whitefooted mice, and small burrowing animals. Rock piles and walls are good places for animals to live also.

If you plant for the animals you can expect squirrels, birds, turtles, frogs and toads, lizards, butterflies, and perhaps rabbits, quail, chipmunks, and snakes.

If you don't have a yard, use a windowbox to provide food, cover, and water. You can spend many happy hours watching wildlife in the natural world in your back yard!



TEACHER: Write for "Invite Wildlife to Your Backyard". See page 52.
See "Travels along a Fencerow", Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine, May, 1978. Pages 20-26 and 40-A.

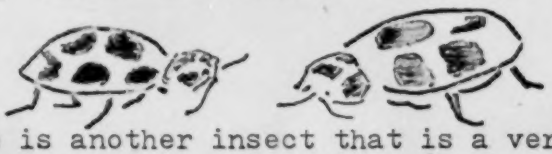
HELPFUL INSECTS

How many insects are there in the world? You will never know them all, but there may be one with which you are familiar - the ladybug. Have you ever seen one? It may be small, round, red, and sometimes it has black spots on its back. Most people really like ladybugs.

A ladybug is a beetle and is sometimes called the lady beetle or ladybird. It is good to have ladybugs around your yard because they eat thousands of aphids, scale insects, and mealybugs. One one wants aphids on plants, flowers, and garden crops. In fact, many farmers and gardeners buy ladybug eggs so that the little beetles will hatch right in their gardens and begin to eat harmful insects.

The ladybug is a "hero" in California. In the early 1900's, plant lice were killing the important citrus crop. Ladybugs were brought all the way from Australia to eat these harmful insects. Now do you see why so many people like ladybugs?

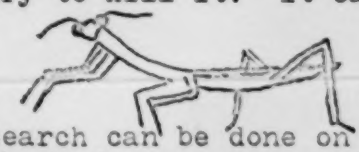
Ladybugs have enemies, however. Spiders, birds, toads, and even ants enjoy eating ladybugs, although they do seem to have a bad taste. Sometimes a ladybug can escape being eaten by playing dead! Since most ladybugs are helpful and have enough natural enemies, be a friend to them. Watch them fly, let them crawl on your hand; but don't hurt them. They cannot and will not hurt you.



There is another insect that is a very helpful friend to man. It is the praying mantis. Have you ever seen it? It has a long green body and a triangular head. Its long forearms have pincers made for grasping and holding the insects that the mantis (mantid) eats. It is a fearsome looking insect, but it is entirely harmless to you, so don't be afraid of it.

If you look at a praying mantis as it waits motionlessly for an insect to come close by, you will know how it got its name. It does look as if it's praying, doesn't it? But it is not praying, it's "preying", that is, watching for its insect food! Mantids are helpful to man, because they eat almost every kind of insect they can catch. Gardeners buy their eggs so that the baby mantids can hatch and eat harmful insects that would destroy garden plants.

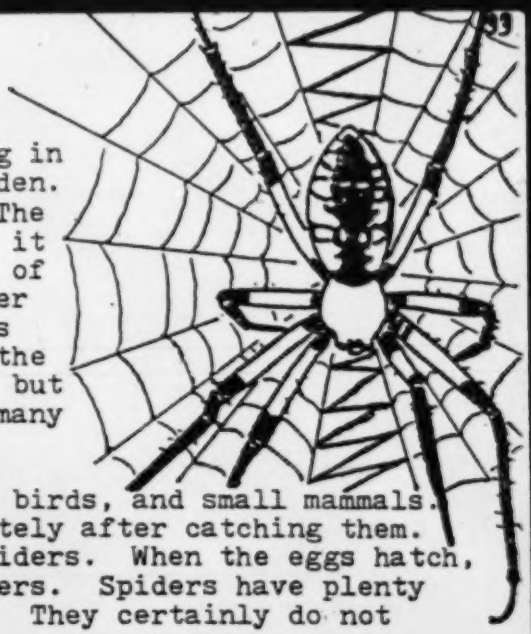
If you are lucky enough to see a mantis, stay very still and watch it. It may turn its little head and watch you for a while, but it will soon get back to the business of catching a meal. You may see it sway as it stalks an insect. Then in a flash -- the insect is imprisoned in the mantid's long forearms. Don't be afraid of the mantis, and don't try to kill it. It cannot hurt you at all.



TEACHER : Interesting research can be done on the hibernation and life cycle of the ladybug, superstitions regarding its ability to bring good luck and healing powers, and how it got its name.

Source books are A Golden Guide - Insects and The Insect Guide. See page 52.

SPIDERS



For many days a black and yellow spider hung in its web between two plants in a small flower garden. It fed on many insects that harmed the plants. The gardener watched the spider and was glad to see it every day, especially in the morning when drops of dew sparkled on its web. But one day the gardener found the web tattered and empty. The spider was gone, and the gardener felt lonesome. He hoped the spider had found a better place to spin its web; but he feared the spider had been eaten, for it had many enemies.

Spiders are eaten by insects, frogs, toads, birds, and small mammals. Wasps and mud daubers do not eat spiders immediately after catching them. They lay eggs on the bodies of live paralized spiders. When the eggs hatch, the young wasp larvae eat the bodies of the spiders. Spiders have plenty of enemies. They sometimes even eat each other! They certainly do not need another enemy - man.

Spiders are hard working little arachnids (not insects), and they are generally helpful to humans. They eat many insects such as flies and mosquitoes that spread disease. They also eat insects that harm plants and trees. There are two kinds of spiders to beware of: the Widows and the Brown Recluse. Other spiders are generally harmless. Their poison is for tiny insects, not for gigantic humans!

Spiders make strong silk for many uses. Some spin webs, others line tunnels and trap doors. Some wrap eggs in silk; some "balloon" with it. Others wrap and store food in the strong fiber.

It is hard to be friends with a spider, because it will probably live only one or two seasons, but some larger spiders live from five to twenty years if they escape their many enemies. Most mother spiders never see their babies, but some actually carry and protect their eggs and give their babies a free ride on their own back!

Spiders are not always black, brown, or dull grey. Many have very beautiful colors and strange shapes. They all have interesting habits. Spider watching can be great fun. Spiders have a strong will to stay alive and will usually run from people. However, if a person is very still and quiet, the spider will usually resume its work. Seeing a spider spin a web is an unforgettable experience. Watching a spider busy at work makes a person feel friendly toward the spider rather than feel afraid of it.

People that really appreciate a spider's right to live will never automatically kill every spider they see. When they find one inside the house, they might carefully and gently put it outside using the end of a broom or a yardstick. Kind people will stop and smile when they meet a spider outside; then they will let the spider go unharmed along its busy way.

TEACHER: See p. 52-53 for books by Berniece Freschet and by Illa Podendorf. Spiders and Their Kin is available in the Golden Nature Guide Series.

Don't forget Charlotte's Web by E.B. White!

BLUEJAYS

What is that loud, raucous bird that seems to be so large and bossy? He is blue and white with black trim, and he seems to be always screaming and chasing other birds from his territory. Of course, you know him; he is the blue jay!

Some people are not kind to blue jays. They don't like the noise that the jays make, and they don't want the jays to chase other birds. It is cruel to kill a bluejay, and it is wrong to do so. We have learned that every animal has a purpose for being where it is. Just what do jays do?

That loud noise that jays make is sometimes used as a warning for other birds and small animals. The jay can warn of an approaching cat or of other danger. You will agree that a blue jay can sound quite an alarm!

Jays eat many bugs and insects that could harm plants. Jays also plant trees. Yes, they plant oak trees and beech trees! Do you know how? They sometimes bury so many acorns and beechnuts that they can't possibly eat them all. The acorns and beechnuts then grow into beautiful trees.

During springtime, you may find a jay baby on the ground. If you do, leave it there. Perhaps it is just beginning to learn to fly. Its parents are probably nearby watching, and they may care for it after you have left them alone. If you see the nest, return the baby to it; its parents will most likely accept it even if it has been touched by a human.

Jays are fun to watch and to listen to. They are some of nature's friends. So the next time you hear that loud noise and see a large blue shape dart through your yard - let it be!

TEACHER: The mention of baby birds will probably bring on a discussion of the feeding and care of orphan babies. An excellent reference book on this subject is My Orphans of the Wild, by Rosemary Collett. See page 52.

SQUIRRELS

Children who have an opportunity to grow up on a farm or near a wooded area are fortunate, because they see free living animals often. Are there any free animals that city children and apartment dwellers encounter? Yes, there are two: birds and squirrels. These animals often live and raise their young near humans.

Tree squirrels are truly "bright eyed and bushy tailed"! Many are active, alert, frolicking creatures that are often very noisy. They chase and fuss with each other, and they sometimes fuss at people!

Since they are members of the rodent family, squirrels are gnawing animals. They constantly grind nuts and other hard things in order to keep their teeth filed down. They eat nuts, large seeds, acorns, fruit, occasional dandelion leaves, grass roots, and other vegetation.

In the winter, squirrels occupy warm dens, usually in dead trees. The dens are lined with dry leaves and other materials for warmth. Nuts and acorns are stored for winter food. The squirrel's summer home is a cool nest in a high tree. The nest is built of leaves and twigs.

Squirrels have enemies in forests and in neighborhoods, too. Dogs and cats chase and kill squirrels. The greatest enemy and the most deadly one is man. Often adults and children kill squirrels; not for food, but just for the sake of killing. Some kill them for fur. Many squirrels must die to make one coat for a human. How wasteful and cruel it is to end the life of an animal that enjoys living so much.

Humans can be friends to squirrels. Many people enjoy having the furry creatures about, and they would never think of harming them. Since there are few dead trees in city areas, some people build squirrel houses. This helps to keep squirrels from building nests in human houses! People also provide food and water for squirrels, especially in winter. Many squirrels would die if it were not for the help given by these kind people.

It is rewarding to raise an orphaned squirrel and return it to the outdoors. The reward comes when the squirrel recognizes and chatters to its human friend. Some squirrels might return for visits. But theirs is a free life; they should not be caged. In fact, many states have laws that forbid confinement of squirrels and other free animals.

A person does not have to raise an orphaned squirrel to have it for a friend. After several weeks of outdoor feeding, squirrels become quite friendly and would probably try to take food from a person's hand. This is dangerous, however. Squirrels can bite (accidentally or deliberately), and they sometimes carry rabies. It is better to watch than to touch!

Squirrel watching is fun. It is nice to know that even when people cannot live near many free animals, there are some that choose to make their homes near us.

TEACHER: See books by Rosemary Collett or by Esther Kellner (page 52) for care and feeding of orphaned animals.

BIRDS OF PREY

Driving down the country roads of Alabama or along the freeways, a person is likely to see a large bird soaring overhead or perched high in a tree. What kind of bird is it? It is probably a bird of prey watching and waiting to see a tiny movement on the ground. With sharp eyesight and lightning-like reflexes, it swoops down on its quarry and prepares to strike with deadly talons. Many times, the hunted mouse, rabbit, or insect escapes, but for those that do not, death is quick.

Birds of prey hunt and eat small animals. Most birds of prey have strong hooked beaks and claws that can kill. Members of this group of birds are eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, and vultures. All birds of prey except vultures prefer to take their food live. Most hunt during the day, but the owls silently patrol at night.

At one time farmers regularly shot every hawk they saw. They even hung dead hawks along their fences or nailed them to barn doors as a warning to other birds of prey. Finally people began to realize that hawks were friends of farmers because hawks ate many small mammals and only a small amount of poultry. Rats, mice, and other rodents cause many thousands of dollars of damage to farmers in Alabama. A farmer's greatest allies against these rodents are local birds of prey. One sparrow hawk, for instance, eats almost 300 rodents a year! Even though it also eats some small birds and insects, four-fifths of its diet consists of rodents.

Birds of prey face many problems. For years, DDT and other harmful pesticides have been used to kill insects. This DDT has built up in the bodies of the animals eaten by birds of prey. The birds of prey themselves are not killed by the pesticides, but because of them, their eggs are so thin-shelled they are crushed when the parents try to hatch them. For this reason, numbers of some large predatory birds are dwindling. Habitat destruction also causes problems for free ranging creatures of the sky. Unfortunately, some farmers, adults, and children with guns still disobey the laws and shoot hawks, falcons, and eagles. Not only is shooting these birds unlawful; it is also ignorant and cruel.

Birds of prey have a valuable role in nature's scheme. Vultures are the sanitation crew of the outdoors. They help prevent the spread of disease from dead animal bodies. All birds of prey help prevent the spread of disease. Many strong, healthy animals that they hunt often escape them; but they do succeed in killing great numbers of old, weak, unwary, and diseased animals. This makes for a healthy total animal community.

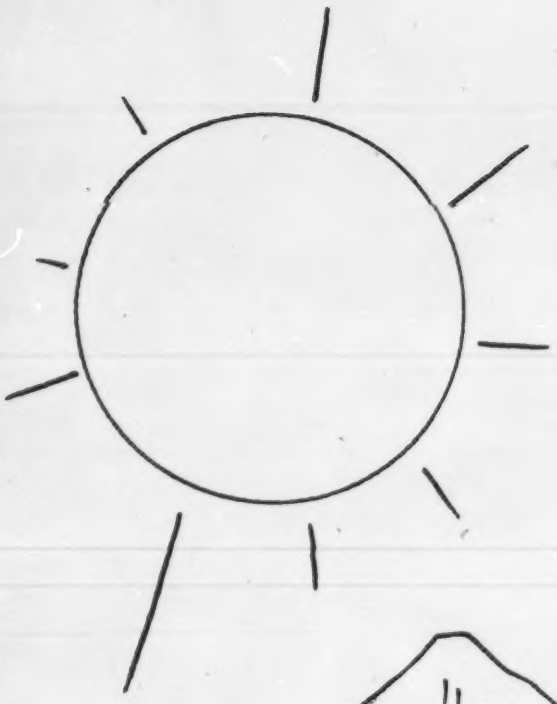
Attitudes are changing about these magnificent birds. People now realize that they have work to do in the natural world. In places where these birds are becoming rare, wildlife biologists are restocking territories. Private citizens often care for injured hawks, owls, eagles, falcons, and vultures. Humane shelters and zoos sometimes find help for injured birds of prey. There are several people in Alabama that are successfully rehabilitating these creatures.

People have not yet learned to soar like the great eagles, but their spirits can soar by watching the magnificent birds that command the skies. Sensitive and humane people would never use guns or any means to bring these free animals to earth. Most people will only be able to see these birds at a distance, for they have no trust in humans; but just the sight of a soaring bird is an inspiration to those of us that are earthbound.

TEACHER: The following page is suitable for making a transparency or duplicating master.

Vocabulary - prey, talon, scavenger, habitat

A FOOD CHAIN



What is a food chain?

Write a story about this food chain.

TOADS AND FROGS

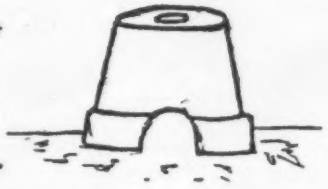
Something jumped in the grass. What was it? Probably just a toad -- don't be afraid. Toads are gentle creatures, and they are completely harmless. They do not bite or sting. They do not cause warts. Toads and frogs are great friends to have outside your home, because they eat hundreds of insects, such as flies and mosquitoes that bother you or cause disease.

You know that toads and frogs come from tadpoles; no doubt you have tried to raise some tadpoles. If you want to watch tadpoles develop into toads or frogs, please get only a few to raise; leave the rest in the pond or lake where you found them. They should have a chance to develop normally and take their place in the natural world.

This is how to raise a tadpole. Provide water from the pond; don't use tap water, because it contains chlorine. Tadpoles must have food. What do they eat? Algae. It is the green, slimy matter that is found floating in ponds. If you don't have any algae, boil a lettuce leaf and put a tiny bit into the water. Don't let the lettuce rot and pollute the water.

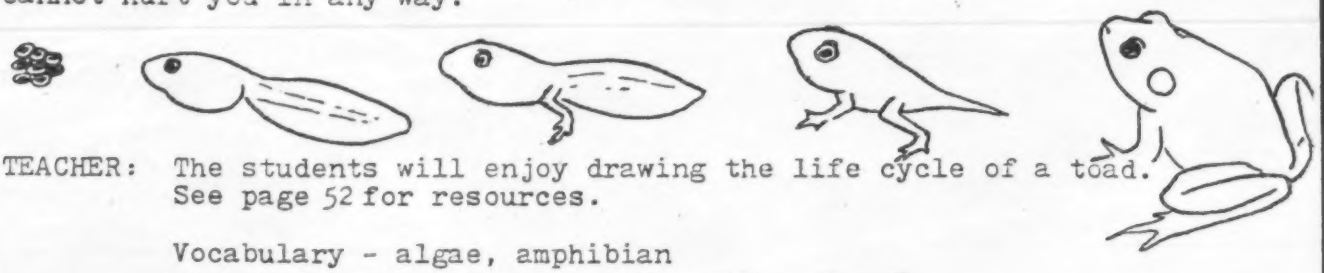
When your tad gets all four legs, it also has gotten its lungs. Provide a place for it to crawl out of the water. You must now provide meat (living meat) for it. It is best to let it go free now, or it will slowly starve to death. Grown toads and frogs need huge amounts of food, and you probably will not have time to catch all the bugs they need to be healthy. Release it in your yard, and it will probably stay around -- you will see it and know that it is free in the natural world. Watch the toad or frog catch and eat an insect; read about toads and frogs. They are called amphibians.

You can build your toad a wonderful "house".* A frog will need to live near a pool or a lake. The toad house can be made from a flower pot that has been turned upside down. Cut an opening so that the toad can enter. Here is a picture of it.



Put the "house" in a shady spot in your garden or flower bed. Dig a hole six inches deep and fill it with rotted leaves soaked with water. Set the pot upside down over the hole. In dry weather, water the "house". Be sure that it is in the shade.

Whenever you see toads and frogs, be kind to them. Encourage others to be kind, and don't tease them or try to hurt them. They cannot hurt you in any way.



TEACHER: The students will enjoy drawing the life cycle of a toad.
See page 52 for resources.

Vocabulary - algae, amphibian

*Bell, Frances. "How to Make a Hoppy Home", Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine, June, 1977, p.9.

SNAKES

You are walking along a path, or you are playing in your yard, and suddenly you see it ---------- it's a snake! What should you do?

If you know something about snakes, you will not be quite so frightened of them. When you read about them and look at their pictures, you learn that snakes are beautiful and fascinating creatures. Many snakes are killed each year, simply because most people are afraid of any snake, not just the poisonous ones. You should immediately learn which snakes are venomous and which ones are non-venomous. Your parents should learn this with you. There are four kinds of poisonous snakes in Alabama. They are the rattlesnakes, the copperhead, the cottonmouth moccasin, and the coral snake. All other snakes you see are not poisonous.

Why should snakes be allowed to live? Because they are part of the natural world. They are here for a reason. They provide food for many animals, and they eat some animals that we don't want to have around our house. Does your mother like to have rats and mice around her house? Probably not! Well, snakes eat hundreds of rats, mice, and other rodents. Snakes eat many of the rodents that destroy farmer's grain crops. Some snakes even eat other snakes!

What should you do when you see a snake? If it is a non-poisonous snake, leave it alone. Don't try to capture it and keep it in a cage. It is difficult to make a snake eat properly. Some captive snakes refuse to eat at all, and they eventually die.

If you see a venomous snake, don't try to do anything to it by yourself. If it is in the deep woods where there are usually no people leave it alone. If it is around your yard or play area get your parents, and use extreme care.

Learn about snakes and their habits. Study about them from a book or in the zoo. Forget the legends you have heard about snakes -- that they sting with their tongue, hypnotize people, roll themselves up like hoops, break apart and join back together. The real facts about snakes are much more interesting than any of these legends!

TEACHER: Perhaps you can develop a unit dealing with reptiles. They are among nature's most misunderstood animals. Colleges, universities, and Humane Socities have experts that can talk to your students and teach them about reptiles.

If you don't appreciate snakes--don't encourage the idea that the only good snake is a dead snake! They have a right to live.

See page 2 for resources.

Vocabulary - reptile, rodent, venomous

LIZARDS

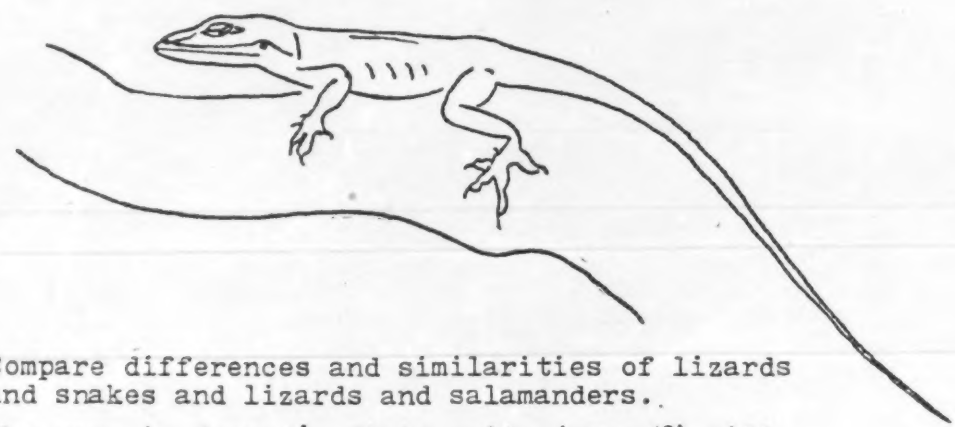
A jaunty little lizard was sunning on a fence post. It was as brown as the old post itself. Its eyes were closed, but they quickly opened when a fly buzzed too close. The lizard tensed and sprang with its mouth open. It looked like a tiny dinosaur. The fly was caught, chewed, and swallowed. Then the lizard continued sunning.

A perky lizard is a most appealing animal. It may scurry up a tree at the sound of footsteps, but if a person remains still, the lizard may soon peek around the tree trunk to investigate. Who can resist the enchanting look in that bright little eye? A quiet,motionless person can observe lizards catching food, chasing each other, or courting.

No one should ever fear or try to hurt a lizard. There are no poisonous lizards in Alabama. When encountered, lizards usually run from people; they certainly do not try to attack them! If escape fails, they stay very still in order to blend with the background. A lizard may bite if handled, but more than likely, it will wiggle and strain until it leaves part of its tail behind to confound its captor and cover its escape.

Lizards should be treated in a gentle way, for they are delicate creatures. They feel pain and are easily hurt. If a lizard is captured, it should be kept only a few days and then returned to its natural home. While in captivity, it might eat live flies and mosquitoes. Water should be misted into the cage each morning so that the lizard can lap it up.

Lizards are interesting, harmless, engaging reptiles, and their lives are precious. They are very necessary in the natural world. They eat many insects and spiders. They should be welcome company when seen climbing on a house, tree, fence, or bush. They are always fun to watch. Humans should count lizards as friends and should always treat them with kindness.



TEACHER: Compare differences and similarities of lizards and snakes and lizards and salamanders.

The maps in Conant's field guide (page 52) will identify lizards of this state.

See page 52 for transparencies by Ortleb and Cadice.

TURTLES

Turtles are free living reptiles and are usually seen in the woods, around bodies of water, and unfortunately, on highways. If you encounter a turtle living free, respect its freedom and its will to live. It has a life of its own. In its natural surroundings it may live for many years. If you capture it and put it in a jar or bowl, what chance for a good, healthy life can it have? Can you be happy knowing that you have taken away freedom from an innocent creature? Is a jar or bowl comparable to the woods, ponds, and lakes?

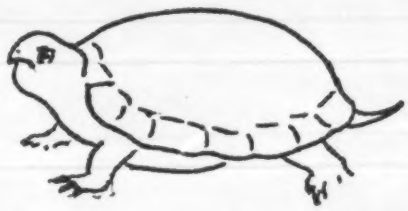
Turtles bought in pet shops are probably baby turtles that have been trapped and shipped to stores for sale. How many of these turtles were injured in the process of capture and transport? How many died? When they arrive at the store, they are often kept in overcrowded and dirty tanks. Turtles with painted shells are sometimes sold. A painted shell can kill a turtle. Many turtles can transmit a disease called salmonella. For these reasons it would be better for turtles if you did not buy them. If there were no market for them, perhaps then the cruelties involved with selling turtles would stop.

If you do already have a turtle, you need to know how to care for it. Provide a "water turtle" with an aquarium with shallow water and a dry place to climb out. Turtles need sunlight -- they also need a place to hide and escape from the sun's heat. Feed the turtle bits of raw meat or fish. Turtles like some vegetable matter, such as spinach or other greens. Put the food <u>in</u> the water, because many turtles can only swallow in water.

Many people think that all turtles live in water, but this is not so. A "land turtle" will need a dry area, but it must also have a bowl of water. It will eat meat, but needs more vegetables and fruit pieces than "water turtles".

Always wash your hands after handling turtles! You don't want to catch salmonella.

If you have captured a turtle, study it for a while, then try to return it to the habitat where it belongs. Watch it slowly lumber away or dive to the bottom of a pond. It will have a better chance for living, and you will be content knowing that it is free in the natural world.



TEACHER: Children should be warned of the obvious danger of helping a turtle cross a highway. However, if it is helped across, it should be put on the side in the direction it is traveling.

See page 52 for field guide.

WILD ANIMALS SHOULD BE FREE

Have you ever seen a wild animal run? Have you seen a bird soar in the sky or preen its feathers while keeping its balance on a branch? Have you ever seen a frog make a long jump and a huge splash into a pond? Have you seen a snake or lizard flash by you and then be so still that it seemed to be invisible? If you have seen these things, you know what it means for an animal to be free in the natural world.

Do you know that some animals have to find places to be safe from the cold during winter and that they have to find mates in the spring? Do you know that animal parents have to cover a great deal of territory to find food for their babies? How can an animal do all these things if someone catches it and puts it in a cage?

Do not capture or hold in captivity any wild bird or animal. You cannot provide the proper diet and environment, and the animal may slowly die. If you want to study an animal's habits, try to study it in its environment. Wild animals, especially babies, are so cute and cuddly you are tempted to capture one for a pet. Isn't this a selfish thing to do? Their natural parents know best how to raise them. Are you really able to take an animal parent's place? Can you provide the special food and the protection the baby needs?

Many times, raising a wild animal can be dangerous -- it may grow too large to keep inside. Then it must be caged. It may begin acting wild as it gets older, and may bite and claw. Some owners find it necessary to have their wild pets put to death because they become too dangerous; other owners just turn their pets loose to fend for themselves. Since the animal never learned to care for itself or find its own food, it usually does not live very long in the wild. Some wild pets develop diseases and parasites that are hard to treat.

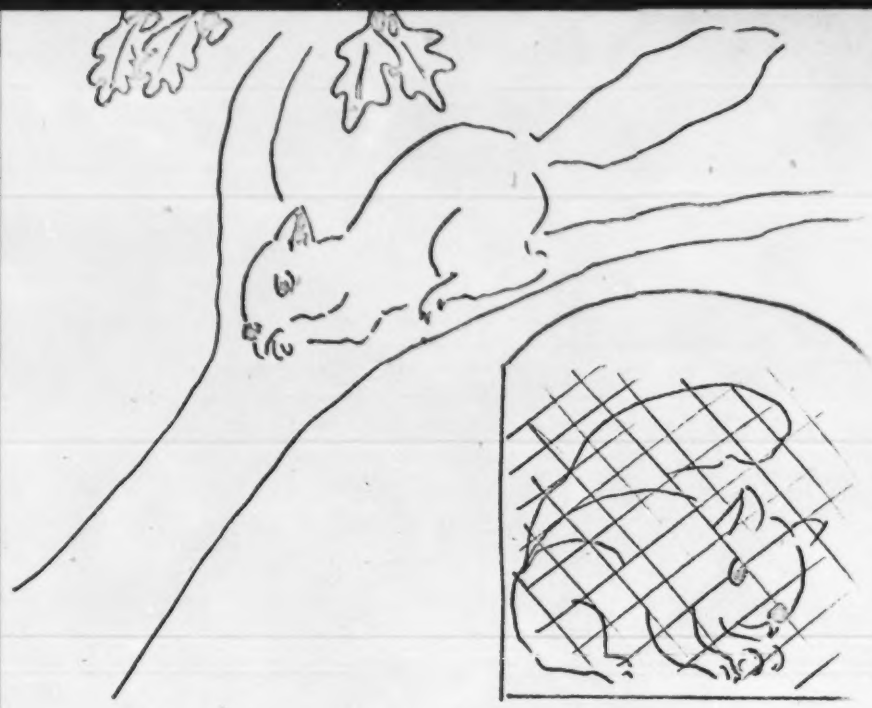
Can you see now why it is not humane to keep wild animals as pets? If you want to study a frog, toad, or lizard, keep it only one or two days. Then let it go free exactly where you found it.

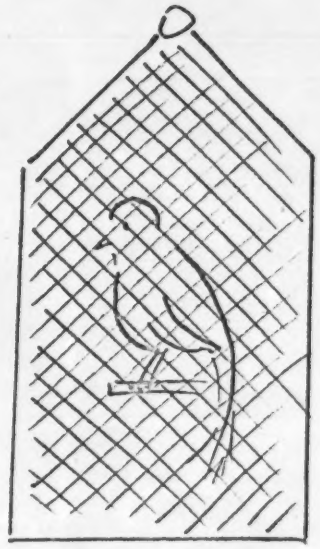
Remember, if you love them -- let them go!

TEACHER: If a student brings a reptile or an amphibian to school, keep it for a day or two; then persuade the student to release it. Many times, children will capture a snake or lizard and neglect to provide water for it. Reptiles and amphibians can go without food for a few days, but they must have a small dish of water.

See page 2 for names of books dealing with wild orphan animals.

The following page is suitable for transparencies or duplicating masters.





47

What kind of life would you choose?

43

THE STEEL JAW (LEGHOLD) TRAP

The beaver had left two kits in the lodge. She swam under water for a few minutes, then surfaced and climbed onto the river bank. She gave a vigorous shake, and water droplets flew from her soft, shiny, thick brown fur. On the shore grew the poplar trees, her food. As she ambled toward them, she had a fleeting sense of danger, but she saw nothing. For hidden in the dry grass, ready to be sprung was her silent and deadly enemy - the steel jaw trap. She put her front leg down. Snap! It was done. Or was it? She fought, twisted, bit, made pathetic noises, and tried to pull loose; but the steel jaws merely dug deeper into her flesh. Repeatedly she tried to free herself, but there was no escape. Finally, exhausted and in shock, she lay still, panting. The end had not yet come. Her leg began to swell, and fluid ran from it. The pain was excruciating. All through the night she faced the possibility of being torn apart by predators. The next morning she was still alive, although she had chewed her snared foot until it was barely attached to her leg.

Then the trapper came. Not wanting to damage the fur, he took a club and beat the beaver over the head until she was dead. It did not take much effort to kill her. She would bring a good price on the market, and someday a part of her would be worn by a human. What happened to the kits? What happened to the rest of the beaver family? No one knows. But the trap was re-set in the same place.

Death does not come easily to the eleven million animals that are trapped each year in our country. Since many trappers do not check the traps daily, animals may spend days slowly and painfully dying of exposure, gangrene, blood loss, and infection. Some are found still alive nursing their young. They must be strangled or clubbed so as not to decrease the value of the pelt. The animal that manages to chew off a leg and "escape" usually dies, but it takes longer.

The steel jaw trap can be set anywhere - even in water or in a tree. It is one of the most brutal, insensitive instruments of death invented by man. It tortures; it maims. Who traps animals? Professional trappers, farmers, and even children engage in this cruel and unnecessary form of killing. What are the trapping regulations of this state?

What animals are trapped? Beavers, muskrats, foxes, raccoons, bobcats, squirrels, opossums, and others. What prevents a dog, cat, bird, deer, duck, or other animal from stepping into it? Nothing. In fact, steel jaw traps snap shut on so many of these animals, it would be impossible to count them.

How can any animal be treated this way? What brings this fate to furry animals? They have pretty pelts. Fur means fashion to many people, and they are willing to be the cause of pain and slow death to these creatures. Is the fur really more valuable to a human than to the animal that owns it? How many animals die to make one fur coat?

Many foreign countries have banned trapping, and Florida has banned the steel trap. Many people do not agree that free living animals should be killed so that their furs can bring money to a few individuals. People that do not agree with trapping refuse to wear animal furs. They wear "fake furs" instead. They write to legislators, the Federal Department of Interior, the State Fish and Game Department, and the newspapers. They encourage friends to stay away from furs and places that sell furs. Can a humane person tolerate the steel jaw trap?

TEACHER: Write for the HSUS Awareness Kit, available for $4.50 from the Humane Society of the U.S. See page 54.

VETERINARIANS - ANIMAL FRIENDS

A trip to a veterinary doctor can save a pet's life - even if it is not sick! Veterinarians not only diagnose and treat illness and perform surgery, but they also inoculate animals and examine them for parasites or other disorders. When a pet is first acquired, it should immediately be taken to the doctor for a "check up". At that time, the owner will be advised about bringing the pet back for shots and de-worming.

Millions of dogs are protected each year from rabies, distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis by inoculations. Cats, also, are inoculated against rabies, enteritis, and pneumonitis. Some of these inoculations protect humans as well as animals! The veterinarian is a pet's best friend. A pet owner should never hesitate to get all necessary shots for a pet. A pet should be taken to the doctor at the first sign of illness. A veterinarian can be a human's best friend, too.

Veterinary doctors perform life saving surgery on many animals. They also perform surgery that will prevent a pet from having litters of unwanted babies.

There are many kinds of veterinary doctors. Some work only with large farm and work animals; others work only with small companion animals. Some veterinarians treat both types.

Zoo veterinarians have exciting, busy, and sometimes dangerous work. They must know how to treat many kinds of animals for many kinds of ailments. In one day the doctor may treat a snake, monkey, antelope, tiger, rhinoceros, alligator, and an eagle! They often care for newborn zoo babies. Zoo doctors like to be on friendly terms with healthy animals, too, because they never know when they will meet them again in the zoo hospital! These doctors work long, hard hours; there is never a dull moment at the zoo.

Some veterinarians work in the field of nutrition, public health, and research. Some inspect food animals - animals that humans eat. They try to make sure that a diseased animal will not end up on someone's dinner plate. Other veterinarians inspect animal food and find ways to make it more nutritious for pets and farm animals.

Veterinarians find work as race track doctors, pet show doctors, and circus and movie animal doctors. They also work in large port cities that receive animals from foreign countries. These animals have to be quarantined and inspected for disease. Veterinary doctors work with humane shelters. Still others study, research, and sometimes treat wildlife.

A veterinarian leads a busy life. The work requires strength and stamina. The doctor never knows when a call will interrupt supper or sleep, especially when that doctor is working in an emergency animal clinic! The veterinarian is sad when a patient dies or when it must be given euthanasia. There are happy times for the doctor, however, when an animal can be sent home with a "clean bill of health" as a result of veterinary skill and care. Veterinarians are truly friends of animals.

TEACHER: See page 52 for James Herriot's fantastic books about his life as a country veterinarian.

Invite a veterinarian to speak to the class.

CAREERS WITH ANIMALS

Would you like to work with animals? There is a variety of animal-oriented careers from which to choose. Some professions involve being out of doors a great deal, and some are strictly indoor jobs. Many occupations really deal more with people and attitudes, and others involve teaching or investigating. Of course, many are directly animal related.

If you want to be around animals primarily, you can become an animal keeper in a pet shop, kennel, animal shelter, veterinarian's office, stable, or at a zoo. The job of animal keeper does not require a college education, because the training is on the job. The keeper should have a deep respect for the well being of every animal in his charge.

A zoo director or curator has an exciting job, because he or she works among animals of every kind. Zoo directors and curators usually have zoology degrees and on the job training before they advance to top positions. They have many people to assist them at the zoo.

A person that is interested in medicine might consider becoming a veterinarian. This doctor works with people and their pets or with livestock. A vet must graduate from veterinary school and pass a state licensing test. Many veterinarians have assistants, receptionists, secretaries, and animal keepers. Some of these jobs do not require a college degree. There is much satisfaction in keeping animals alive and healthy.

Humane shelters provide work of many kinds. Some humane shelters employ a manager, an executive director, animal keepers, a veterinarian, an educational director, secretary, legal advisor, cruelty investigator, and many volunteer workers. Teenagers sometimes work part-time at the shelter. There is some sadness in their work, because there are so many homeless and mistreated animals; but there is great satisfaction in making these animals comfortable and in trying to find a family for them.

If you wish to combine your concern for animals with a love for the out of doors, consider being a ranger or naturalist in a state or national park. These people work with children and adults as well as with animals. They teach about animals of the area, and they plan a suitable environment for the animals and humans in the park. Foresters and conservation officers spend much time outside in their work. Wildlife biologists study all kinds of animals to help develop conservation programs.

You may want most of all to teach others about kindness to living things. Humane societies have educational directors that serve as a link between students and animals. They go to schools and instruct children about pet care, mistreatment of animals, and animals in the community.

There are many other occupations that deal with animals and with animal study. Biology is the science of living things, and zoology is the science of animals. These courses are taught in high schools and colleges. Even if you do not work directly with animals, you can apply for a secretarialy position with a vet, a zoo, or a humane shelter. Volunteer work in a veterinarian's office or at the zoo or humane shelter is a good way to start. Once you start working with animals, you may decide never to stop!

TEACHER: The Humane Society in your area can provide you with more information about animal-related occupations.

What is a zoo? Is it a place where animals are kept so that people can look at them and learn about them? Is it a place where endangered species are bred to insure survival? A zoo is many things; but first of all, it is a place where some animals spend their entire existence. Since it is that, what sort of place should a zoo be?

A zoo should be a place where captive animals live as naturally as possible. Of course, the amount of money a metropolitan area spends on a zoo determines its quality. If funds are small, a well run small zoo is better than a dirty, poorly managed large one. Weather is another determining factor. If a city's weather is cold most of the time, it would be a mistake to try to keep captive tropical animals.

What animals will be exhibited? Will native animals be included? Will animals have companions, or will they spend their entire lives alone? What sort of housing is provided? Are animals consigned to small cages for a lifetime? Are their lodgings cleaned regularly? Are roaches and rats rampant? Are people allowed to "trash up" the grounds with litter from concession stands?

What do the animals eat? Are they provided with vitamins, calcium, and other minerals they need to keep them in peak condition? Is a zoo doctor on hand to inspect healthy animals as well as to treat sick ones?

Zoo animals should be featured in a setting as close to their natural habitat as possible. Who wants to see tigers endlessly pacing in a cage? What is sadder than a bird in quarters so small that it cannot stretch its wings? Sometimes it is not possible to place animals in simulated habitats. Gorillas and elephants can be destructive, but this does not mean that they should have boring, neurotic existence in dismal confinement.

There are some horrible zoos in this country. When people see them, they feel depressed and wish that they had never visited them. There are also some very good zoos. These zoos plan for people and animals. They have guides or guidebooks and informative signs near the animals. They do not allow food and litter in animal areas. These zoos have clean and comfortable rest areas for humans. Natural areas are provided for many animals, and they are as clean as possible. The keepers are friendly and willing to answer visitors' questions. There is a full time zoo veterinarian. Many animals successfully bear and raise young. The good zoo exhibits animals from other countries and has a native animal area.

People who visit the zoo should be very critical of conditions there. If they see something that is wrong, they should write or visit the zoo director. If the zoo is good, they will compliment the director.

How do you rate a zoo? Ask this question: would you like to be there if you were an animal? Or are you glad that you can get away and sad that the animals cannot? Visit the zoo in your area now and check it out. Humane treatment of zoo captives is very important. These animals deserve the very best in return for the education and enjoyment they give to humans.

TEACHER: The following check list can be reproduced.

Encourage students to visit the local zoo and discuss their evaluation with the class. A class field trip to the zoo would be beneficial.

ZOO REPORT CARD

APPEARANCE:

___ Are the zoo grounds well kept and free of litter?
___ Is eating confined to concession area?
___ Are restrooms and water fountains clean?
___ Are concession areas clean?

INFORMATION:

___ Are signs up to date and easy to understand?
___ Are guidebooks available?
___ Are guides available?
___ Are informative signs displayed near animal cages?
___ Are keepers friendly and willing to answer questions?

ANIMAL COMFORT:

___ Are cages clean?
___ Is there an absence of rats, roaches, and other bugs?
___ Is fresh, clean water available?
___ Are cages large?
___ Do animals have cagemates or companions?
___ Do animals appear to be healthy and content?
___ Do animals have anything to occupy them to keep from becoming listless and neurotic?
___ Are animals kept in simulated habitat areas?
___ Have many animals produced offspring?
___ Are endangered species represented?
___ Are native animals exhibited?

Ask questions of zoo personnel.
What grade would you give this zoo?___
Would you want to visit it again?____

EXOTIC PETS

Scores of monkeys were swinging through trees in their tropical home. Something had frightened them, and they were trying to escape. Too quickly, a large net enveloped most of them, and they were caught. Their captors grabbed the screaming, thrashing, biting monkeys and put them into crates. The monkeys were packed so tightly that they had little room to move. Screaming and biting, they still tried to escape, but the only freedom for most would be death. They were transported by riverboat, truck, and finally loaded into an airplane for a trip across the ocean.

Shock, exhaustion, hunger, and lack of enough water or air caused the death of many little monkeys before they ever reached their destination. When the plane landed, the crates loaded with monkeys (now quieter, but more terrified) were unloaded and left for the buyer to claim.

First, they must pass customs inspection. Still there was no water or food during the long wait. More animals died. Finally the monkeys that were alive were transported to the pet dealer's place of business and were put up for sale.

People bought the little monkeys. One was taken, still terrified, to a nice home where it was put in a cage. How unlike its old home that cage was! It was generally well fed, but it received too many snacks of potato chips and candy. As it became adjusted to the family, it was allowed some freedom, but it became angry when its owner tried to return it to the cage. One day, it bit its owner, escaped, and bit several others in the community before the police shot it. What a cruel life and death for a once free living animal.

Whenever a person thinks of buying an exotic pet, he should realize that one animal probably represents many others of its kind that did not survive capture and transport. Buying an exotic pet means that the buyer is responsible for the death of other animals. If there were no market for these creatures from other lands, they would not be captured and subjected to this torture. Of the animals placed in homes, many do not live even a year. They die from inadequate diet, disease, and general ignorance of the owner.

Every day, people buy anteaters, ocelots, caimans, iguanas, parrots, monkeys, cobras, coati mundi, and scores of free living creatures. Sometimes these are baby animals kidnapped from their parents. When the "pets" finally become dangerous or niusances to owners (and many do), they are hard to get rid of. Zoos do not want them -- they have all the animals they can handle. So the animals end up either in cruel roadside exhibits, or more likely, in an animal shelter. There they wait for adoption. Most are unwanted and must eventually be put to death.

A little monkey is cute. A baby "alligator" has a certain appeal. Coati mundi and kinkajou are fascinating. But they are free living animals. Anyone who has one for a pet must face the fact that they represent many animals who died along the way. A humane person will not be the cause of the death. Therefore, a humane person resists the temptation to own an exotic pet.

TEACHER: Read "The Scandal of Living Room Zoos", by George Reiger in National Wildlife, Oct.-Nov., 1974, pages 4 - 12.

ORGANIZED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Most adults and children would never be cruel to animals, and they could not understand anyone that was intentionally cruel. Cruelty exists, and cruelty by organized groups sometimes thrives. There are people who do not consider pain, fear, and bewilderment of animals; therefore, these people do not hesitate to do things that hurt or kill them.

A rattlesnake "roundup" is a form of organized cruelty. In south Alabama, as well as in other southern and western states, rattlesnakes are roused from winter sleep and captured. Gasoline spray or fumes are used to drive them out of dens or burrows that they sometimes share with other animals, such as the rare indigo snake, pine snake, and opossum. Not only does the gasoline injure and sometimes kill the rattlers, but it also harms these other animals. After capture, the snakes are often piled into barrels or holding pens. They are not fed and are rarely given water. Many times they are cruelly handled -- bones are broken, bodies are crushed and bruised, skin is torn -- in front of eager audiences. The snakes are improperly "milked", but the venom is not used for medical purposes. The "roundups" make money for communities, but should any living creature be exploited in this way for any reason?

Cruelty is sometimes a part of greyhound training. Many greyhounds are trained with rabbits as live lures. The rabbit cries pitifully as it is chased and torn apart by the dogs. If it does not die, it is again set loose for other dogs. If it is too badly hurt to run, the trainer may kill it by hitting its head against something hard. Hundreds of rabbits are killed. Greyhounds that cannot win races are also killed. They are too dangerous to become pets. They are trained to chase moving targets, and they might harm a child or small animal. Should the deaths of many animals buy fun and profit for humans?

Rodeos are popular in some communities. They remind people of the "old days" when cowboys rounded up cattle and broke wild horses. However, some things done in rodeos are cruel. Among the most painful are probably the roping events. "Steer busting" and calf roping are not amusing when viewed from the animal's vantage point.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of large frogs are dissected by high school students. A large number of cats are also used for dissection. Most high school students have no need to cut apart a frog or cat. Most do not even want to do so, for they prefer live animals to dead ones.

Animal research is often necessary for many reasons, but much research is conducted in inhumane ways. Many animals suffer through unnecessary experiments. Often, living conditions of laboratory animals are deplorable.

Dogfights, cockfights, coon-on-a-log are unlawful in many areas, yet groups of people still take part in these cruel and degrading activities.

Where is Reverence for Life? Is life a precious thing, or is it easily expendable? Is the death of a living creature something that is fun, entertaining, and profitable; or is death a real loss? Death comes to every organism; therefore, the quality of life is very important. Humans are responsible for the quality of life of many creatures other than themselves. We have control over many things in the natural world. What kind of control will we exercise?

TEACHER: Other forms of "organized cruelty" are: some puppy mills, bullfights, factory farming, some trained animal acts, some riding stables, some guard dog training, some slaughterhouse methods, some roadside zoos and exhibits, bunny bops, etc. The humane organization in your area can give you much more information if you care to dig deeper.

SUMMARY

Throughout this year, you have been discussing and examining your own ideas about kindness to animals. Perhaps you now have kind feelings toward all living things, from the smallest insects to the largest free living creatures.

You have learned how to care for animals that live with you, and you know of some kind people who have demonstrated their convictions throughout their lives. You have explored careers that involve animals and their welfare.

During this year, the emphasis has been on companion animals and free living animals of Alabama. This is only a beginning.

Cruelty abounds in many areas. In the oceans, the whale slaughter continues, perpetrated by Japan and Russia. The great, gentle creatures of the sea are being driven to the brink of extinction so that fertilizer, pet foods, and cosmetics can be made from their bodies. All these products can be made in other ways, and the Japanese and the Russians know that. Who knows what things could be learned from the great whales if the killing stopped?

Every March, an annual harp seal slaughter commences near Canada. During 1978, the quota of seals was 180,000. Clubbing a ten-day-old baby seal so that a human can wear its white fur is an outrage against the sacredness of life!

In our own country, mass killing of coyotes, wolves, and other predators is carried out by federal agents on federal lands with our tax dollars. Baby coyotes are dragged with hooks from their dens and are clubbed to death.

The list goes on, but it is too tragic to recount. Cruelties abound in our own state and even in your own neighborhood. You know of some of these cruelties, and you can act against them.

A kind feeling toward all life forms a bond between human and animal that is almost magical. What joy there is in seeing a soaring hawk, a squirrel busily gathering winter food, a little green lizard eyeing an insect, a spider miraculously spinning a web, or your own dog wagging his tail to welcome you home. Animals have much to teach us about living in harmony with all nature. We have much to offer them in the form of love, freedom, and protection from harm.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Alabama's school children had a Reverence for Life and made it known in the state and in the nation? Your Reverence for Life can grow every day until you feel completely benevolent toward all living creatures. Then you will know something of the feelings of Henry Bergh and Albert Schweitzer and thousands of other brave people who use their power and intellect toward goodness and compassion.

"Ethics is responsibility for all that lives —
extended until it knows no limits."

Albert Schweitzer

APPENDIX I

RESOURCES AND TEACHING AIDS

Collett, Rosemary K. with Charlie Briggs. My Orphans of the Wild. J.B. Lippincott Company, N.Y., 1974.

Conant, Roger. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1975.

Freschet, Berniece. The Web in the Grass. Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y., 1972.

Golden Nature Guides, Golden Press, N.Y. Paperback nature series, available at book stores.

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Herriot, James. All Creatures Great and Small (1972) and All Things Bright and Beautiful (1974). Bantam books, paperback.

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Kellner, Esther. Wild Animal Shelter. Scholastic Book Services, N.Y., 1976. (paperback)

KIND Magazine for Children. The Humane Society of the U.S., 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20037. Cost is $3.00 for single subscription and $1.50 each for orders of 10 or more.

Ortleb, Edward and Cadice, Richard. Amphibians and Reptiles. Milliken Publishing Co., St. Louis. A Full Color Transparency Book with 12 transparencies and 4 duplicating pages. Available at school supply companies.

APPENDIX I

Podendorf, Illa. The True Book of Spiders. Children's Press, Chicago, 1965.

Pough, Richard H. Audubon Land Bird Guide. (Illustrations by Don Eckelberry). Doubleday and Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1949.

Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine. National Wildlife Federation, 1412 - 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036. Subscriptions are $7.00 for one year (12 issues).

Shuttlesworth, Dorothy. Caring for Gerbils and Other Small Pets. Scholastic Book Services, N.Y., 1970. (paperback)

Swain, Ralph. The Insect Guide. Doubleday and Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1948.

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Weber, William J. Wild Orphan Babies. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, N.Y., 1975.

White, E.B. Charlotte's Web. Harper and Row, N.Y., 1952.

APPENDIX II

ADDRESSES

Booklets are available from the following companies:

Carnation (Friskies), Los Angeles, CA. 90036

General Foods Corp. (Gaines), White Plains, N.Y. 10625

Kal Kan, Inc., Vernon, CA. 90058

Purina Pet Care Division, Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO. 63188

Sergeant's Pet Care Products, Miller-Morton Co., Richmond, VA. 23230

Upjohn Dog Book. Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.

Your Family Pet. 20 Polo Field Lane, Great Neck, N.Y. 11020

National Humane Societies:

American Humane, 5351 Roslyn Street, Englewood, Colorado, 80111. Pamphlets and aids.

The Humane Society of the U.S., 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20037. Brochures and teaching aids.

National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE), Box 98, East Haddam, CT., 06423. Journal, Humane Education.